THE SILVER SURFER®

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL

HOMECOMING™

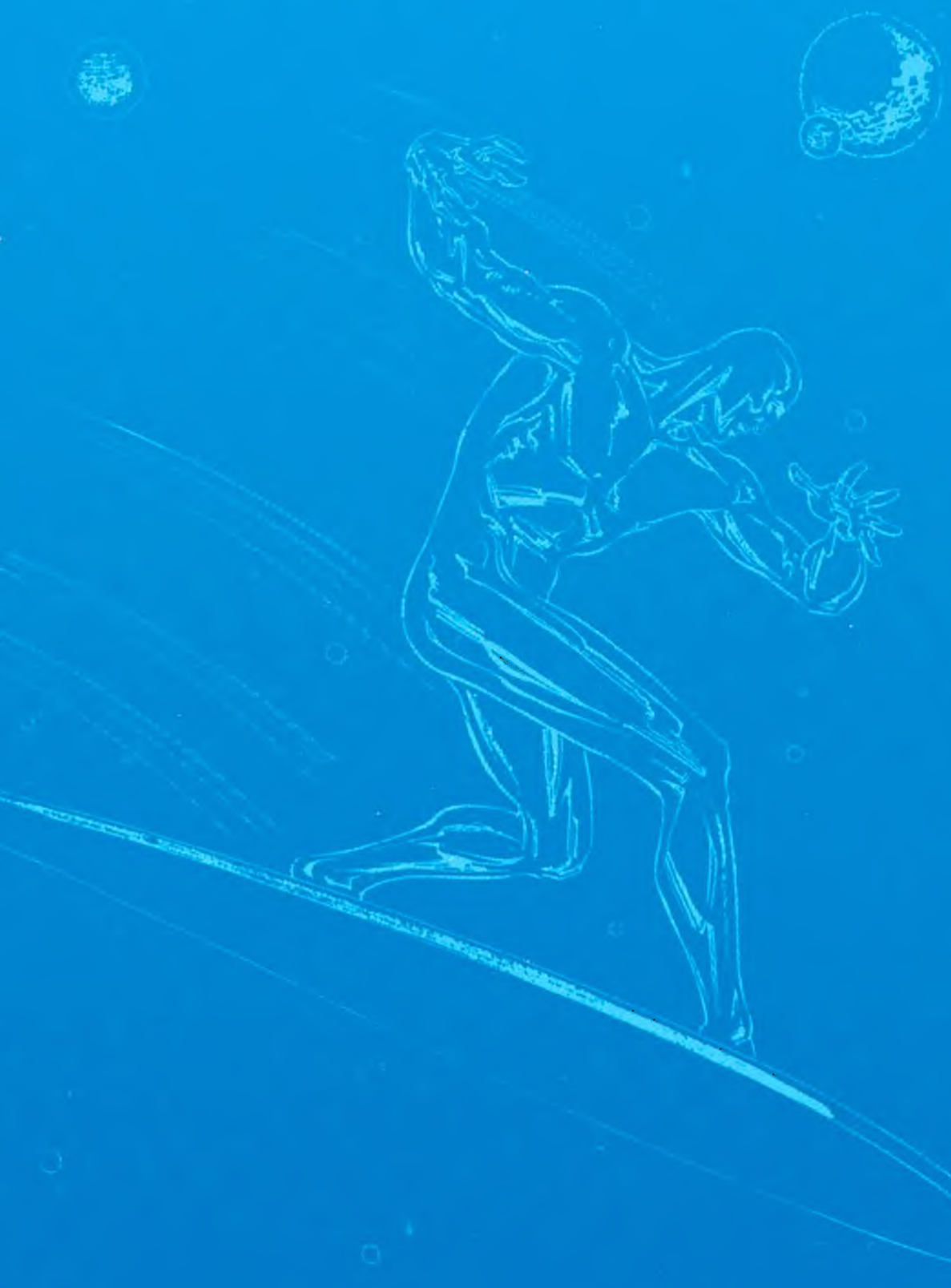
JIM STARLIN BILL REINHOLD LINDA LESSMANN

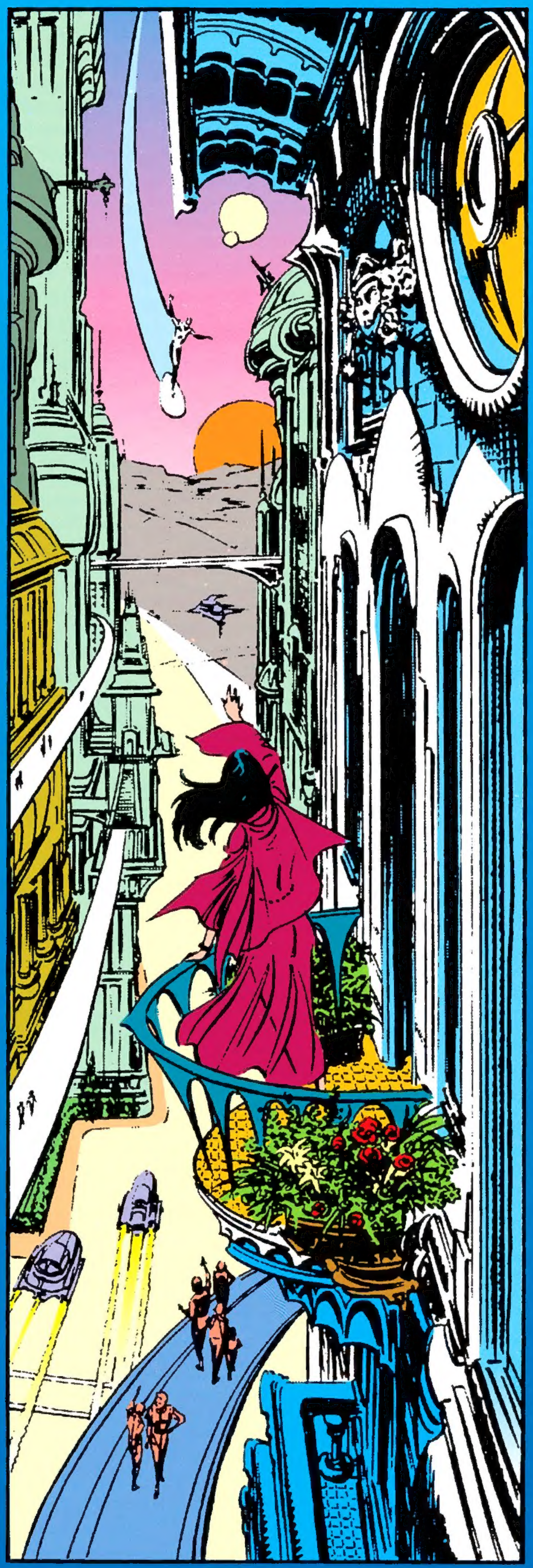
W★R·91

DREAMS FULFILLED: When the Silver Surfer finds that his homeworld, Zenn-La, is kidnapped and made part of a private collection of planets, he expects the worst. But instead he discovers a long-nurtured wish come true. Within the sanctuary of the Great One's collection, Zenn-La is safe for the first time in decades. The Surfer can now, at long last, return home and be united with his love, Shalla Bal.

BRUTAL REALITY: The best of dreams are always accompanied by rude awakenings, and this particular fleeting phantasm comes at a tragic cost to the Silver Surfer.

Death awaits within the realm of the Great One.





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"HOMECOMING"

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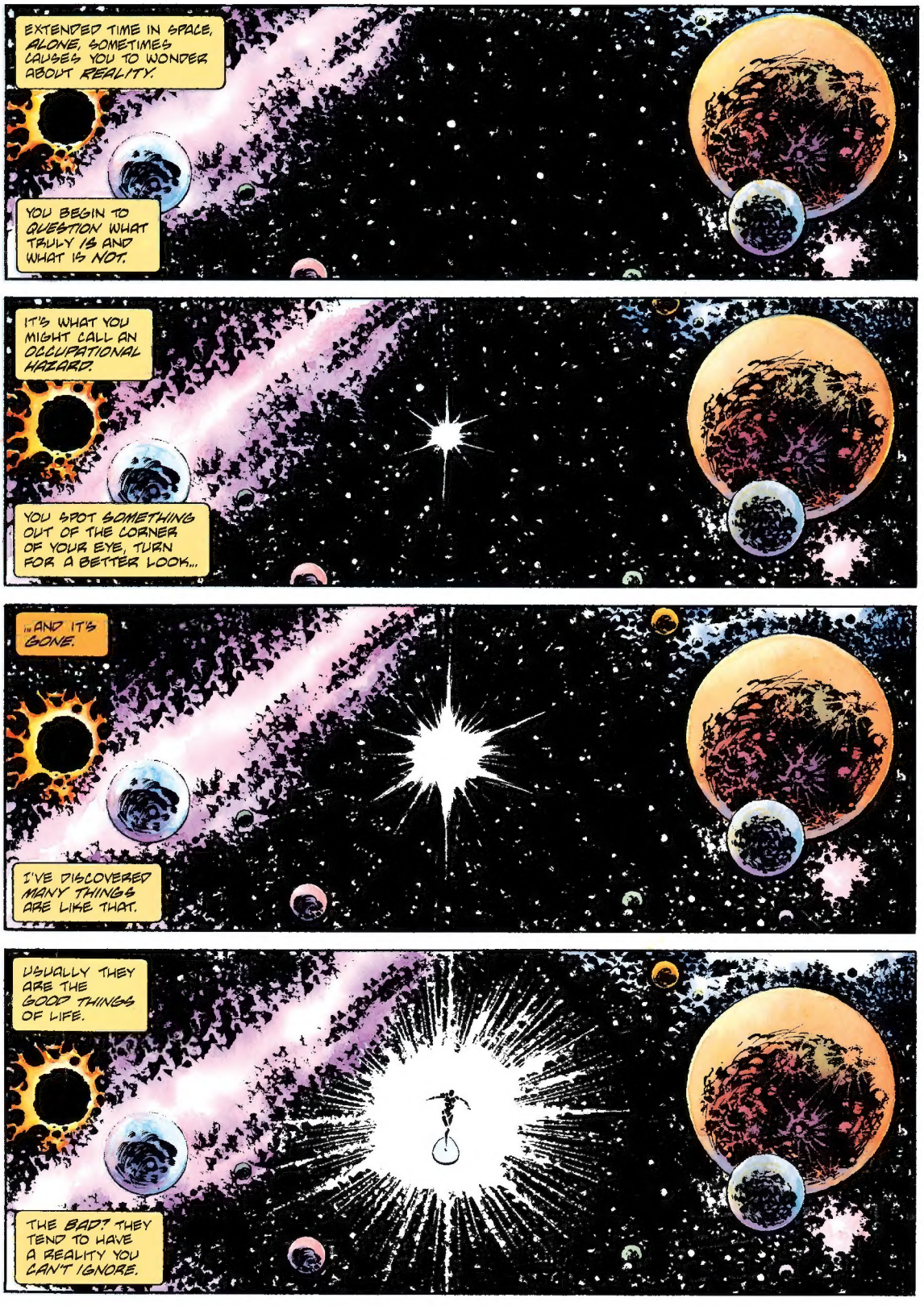
To **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby**
for giving us the Silver Surfer
Jim Starlin

For
Leanna
Our finest collaboration
Bill Reinhold and Linda Lessmann
October 1991

The artists gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Ray Murtaugh,
Alex Wald and Holly Blessen in coloring this book.


EXTENDED TIME IN SPACE, ALONE, SOMETIMES CAUSES YOU TO WONDER ABOUT REALITY.
YOU BEGIN TO QUESTION WHAT TRULY IS AND WHAT IS NOT.
IT'S WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD.
YOU SPOT SOMETHING OUT OF THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE, TURN FOR A BETTER LOOK...
...AND IT'S GONE.
I'VE DISCOVERED MANY THINGS ARE LIKE THAT.
USUALLY THEY ARE THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.
THE BAD? THEY TEND TO HAVE A REALITY YOU CAN'T IGNORE.

THAT'S WHY I DON'T *DOUBT* MY SENSES FOR EVEN A MOMENT WHEN THE TELEPATHIC *DISTRESS CALL* CUTS THROUGH THE ETHER.

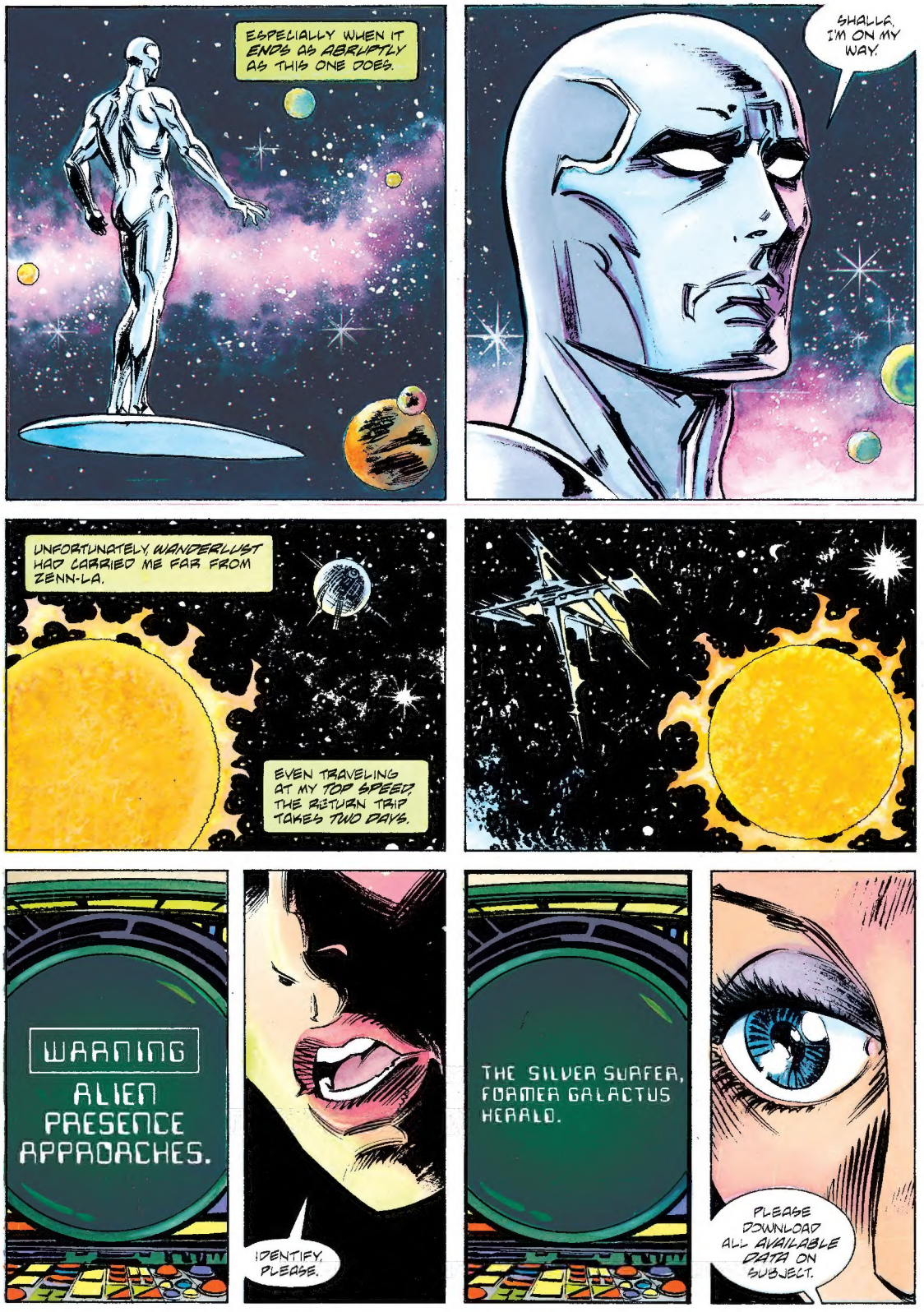
NORRIN!

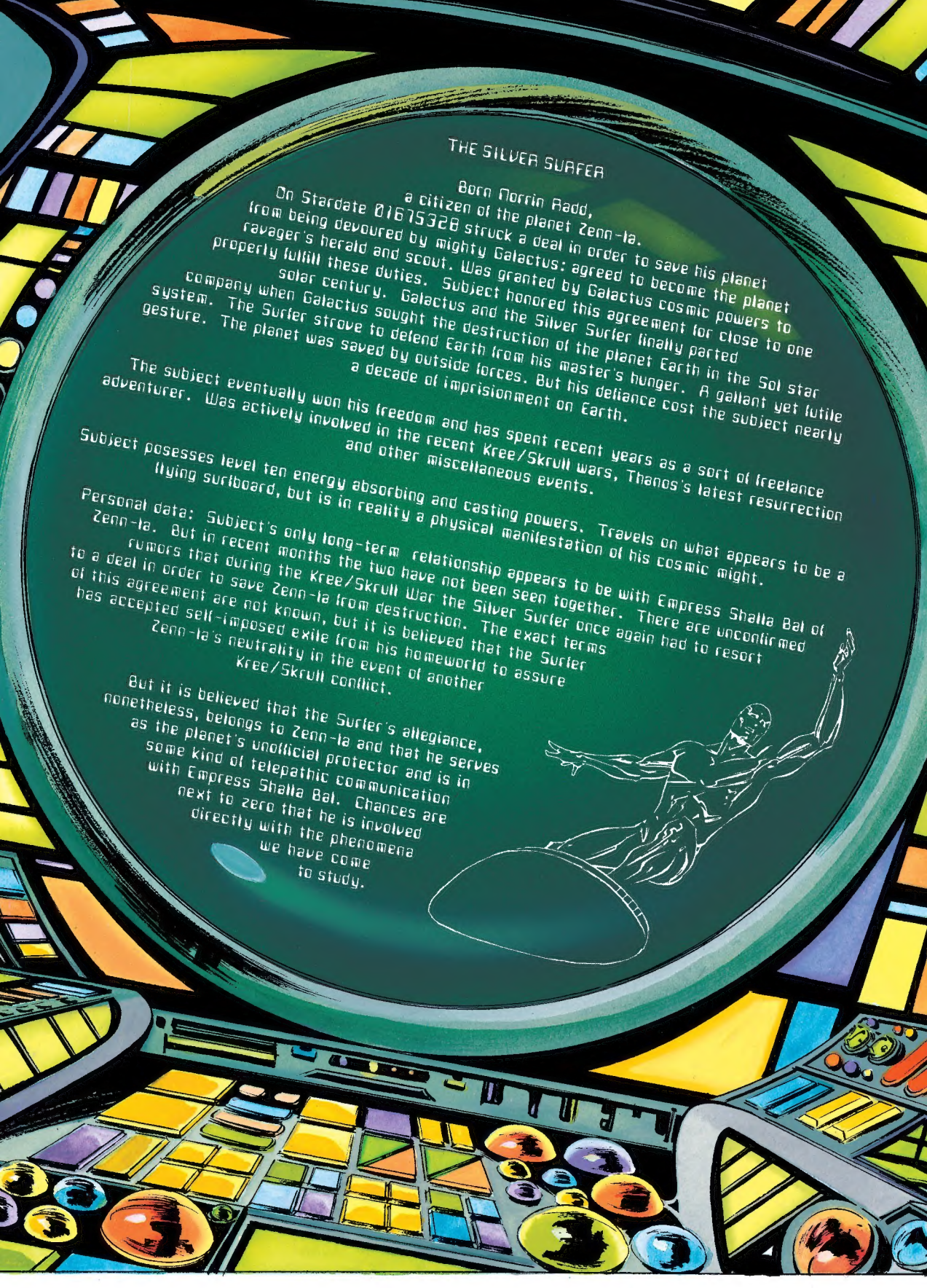
SHALLA BAL!

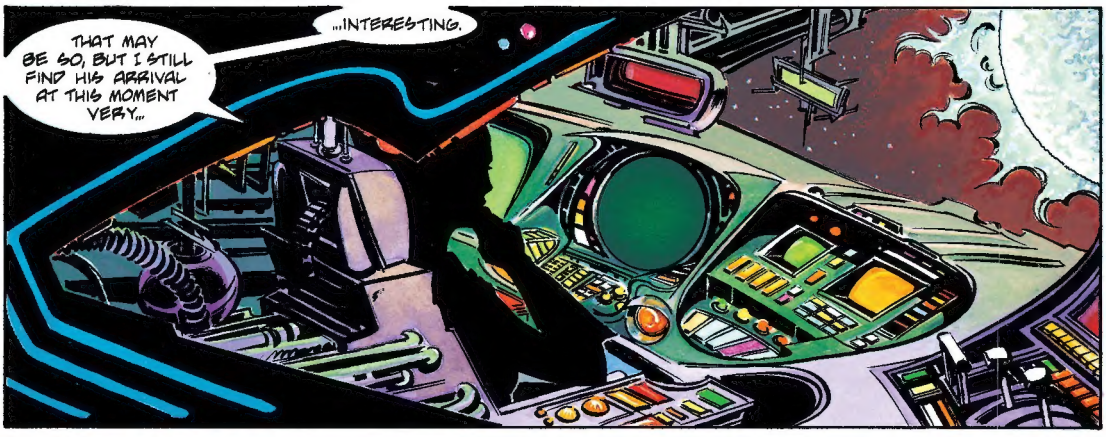
SHE AND I WERE ONCE *LOVERS*, LINKED IN SO MANY WAYS; SOME EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

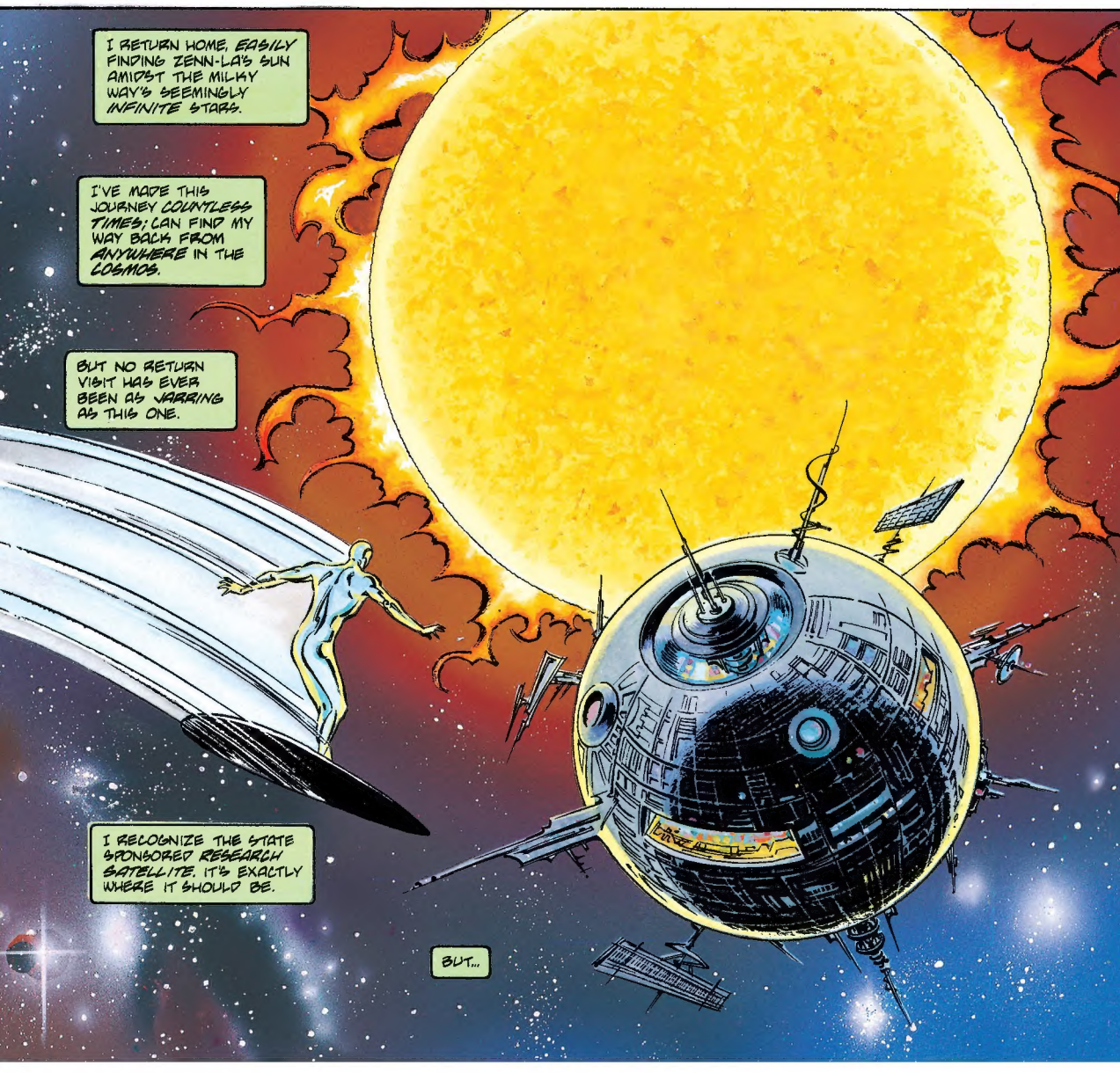
EMPRESS SHALLA BAL RULES WHAT WAS ONCE MY HOMEWORLD, ZENN-LA.

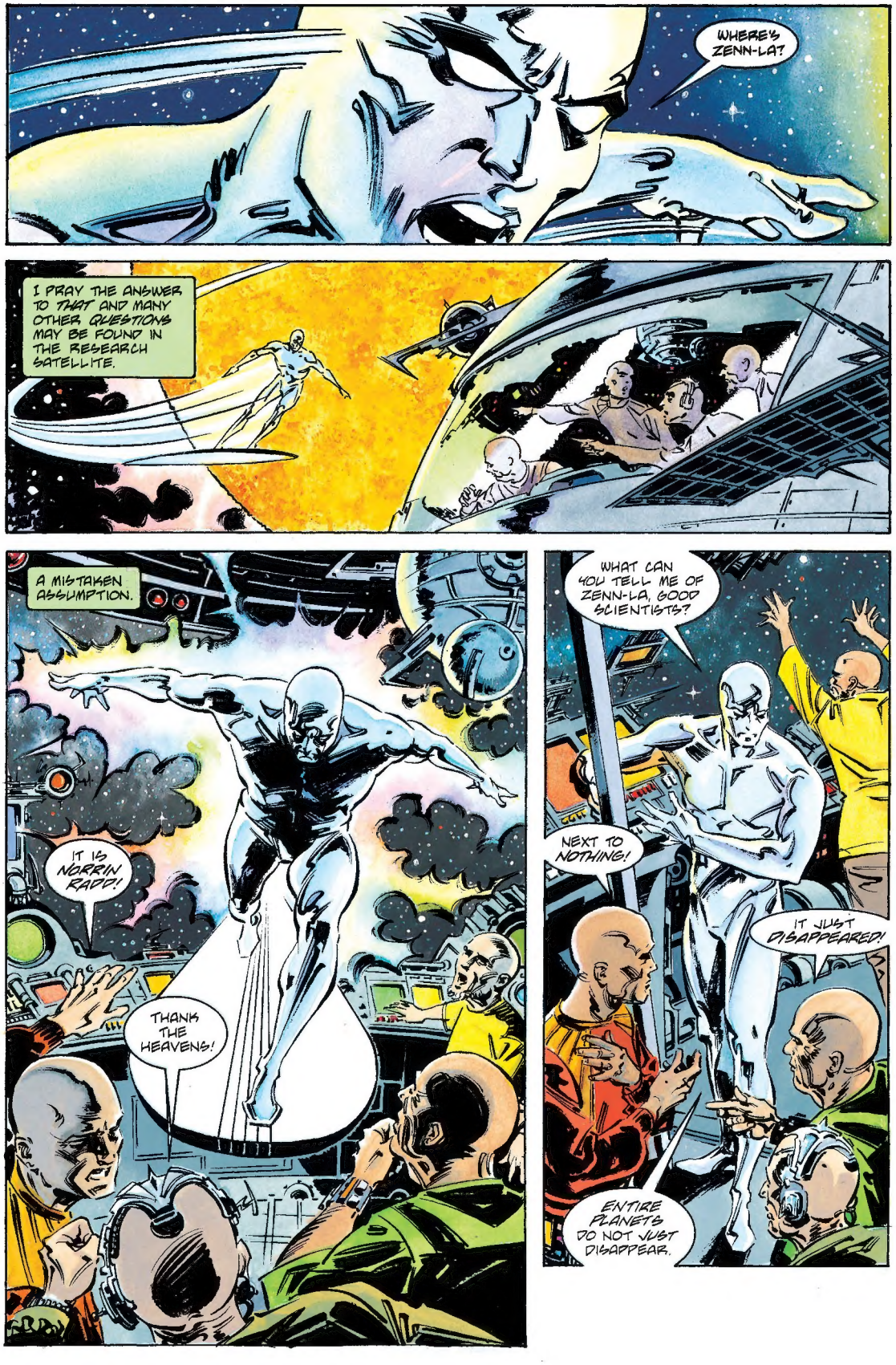
A CALL FROM HER CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING: *TROUBLE.*

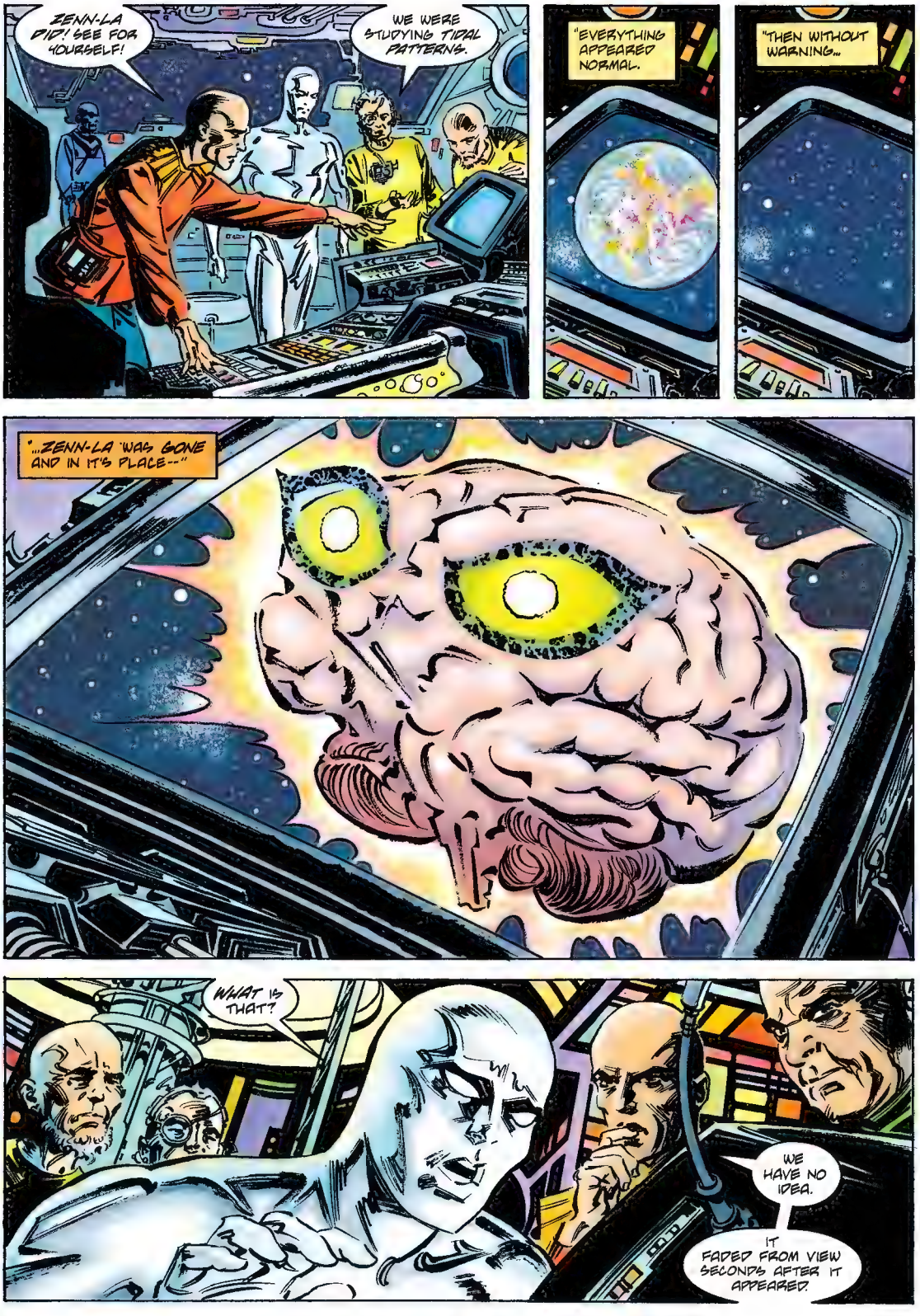

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT ENDS AS ABRUPTLY AS THIS ONE DOES.
SHALLA, I'M ON MY WAY.
UNFORTUNATELY, WANDERLUST HAD CARRIED ME FAR FROM ZENN-LA.
EVEN TRAVELING AT MY TOP SPEED, THE RETURN TRIP TAKES TWO DAYS.
WARNING
ALIEN PRESENCE APPROACHES.
IDENTIFY, PLEASE.
THE SILVER SURFER, FORMER GALACTUS HERALD.
PLEASE DOWNLOAD ALL AVAILABLE DATA ON SUBJECT.

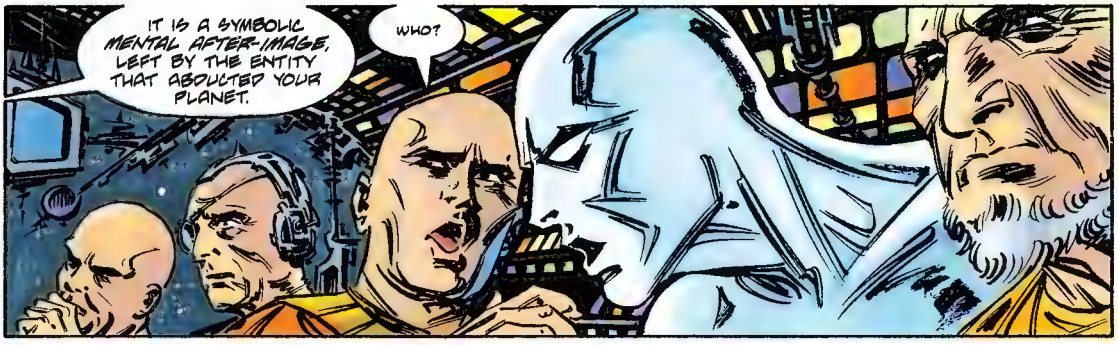

THE SILVER SURFER
Born Norrin Radd,
a citizen of the planet Zenn-la.
On Stardate 01675328 struck a deal in order to save his planet
from being devoured by mighty Galactus: agreed to become the planet
ravager's herald and scout. Was granted by Galactus cosmic powers to
properly fulfill these duties. Subject honored this agreement for close to one
solar century. Galactus and the Silver Surfer finally parted
company when Galactus sought the destruction of the planet Earth in the Sol star
system. The Surfer strove to defend Earth from his master's hunger. A gallant yet futile
gesture. The planet was saved by outside forces. But his defiance cost the subject nearly
a decade of imprisionment on Earth.
The subject eventually won his freedom and has spent recent years as a sort of freelance
adventurer. Was actively involved in the recent Kree/Skrull wars, Thanos's latest resurrection
and other miscellaneous events.
Subject posesses level ten energy absorbing and casting powers. Travels on what appears to be a
flying surfboard, but is in reality a physical manifestation of his cosmic might.
Personal data: Subject's only long-term relationship appears to be with Empress Shalla Bal of
Zenn-la. But in recent months the two have not been seen together. There are unconfirmed
rumors that during the Kree/Skrull War the Silver Surfer once again had to resort
to a deal in order to save Zenn-la from destruction. The exact terms
of this agreement are not known, but it is believed that the Surfer
has accepted self-imposed exile from his homeworld to assure
Zenn-la's neutrality in the event of another
Kree/Skrull conflict.
But it is believed that the Surfer's allegiance,
nonetheless, belongs to Zenn-la and that he serves
as the planet's unofficial protector and is in
some kind of telepathic communication
with Empress Shalla Bal. Chances are
next to zero that he is involved
directly with the phenomena
we have come
to study.


...INTERESTING.
THAT MAY BE SO, BUT I STILL FIND HIS ARRIVAL AT THIS MOMENT VERY...

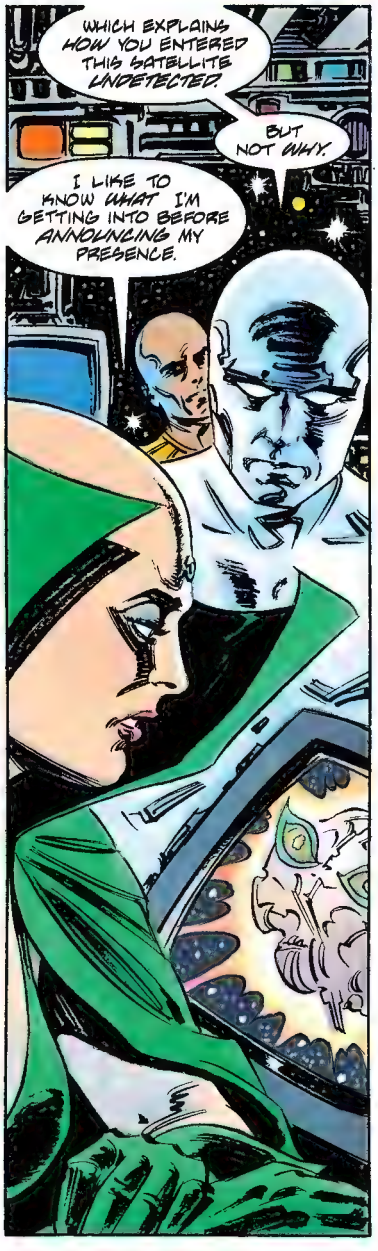

I RETURN HOME, EASILY FINDING ZENN-LA'S SUN AMIDST THE MILKY WAY'S SEEMINGLY INFINITE STARS.
I'VE MADE THIS JOURNEY COUNTLESS TIMES; CAN FIND MY WAY BACK FROM ANYWHERE IN THE COSMOS.
BUT NO RETURN VISIT HAS EVER BEEN AS JARRING AS THIS ONE.
I RECOGNIZE THE STATE SPONSORED RESEARCH SATELLITE. IT'S EXACTLY WHERE IT SHOULD BE.
BUT...

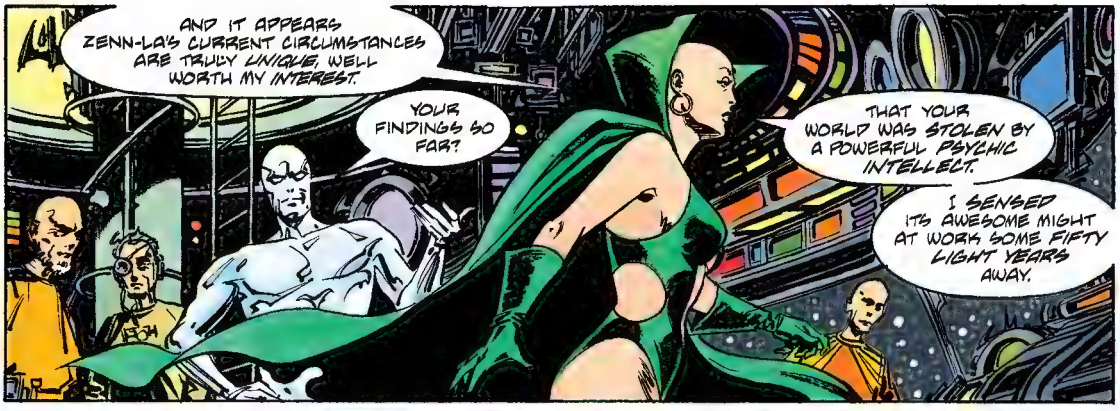

WHERE'S ZENN-LA?
I PRAY THE ANSWER TO THAT AND MANY OTHER QUESTIONS MAY BE FOUND IN THE RESEARCH SATELLITE.
A MISTAKEN ASSUMPTION.
IT IS NORRIN RADD!
THANK THE HEAVENS!
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME OF ZENN-LA, GOOD SCIENTISTS?
NEXT TO NOTHING!
IT JUST DISAPPEARED!
ENTIRE PLANETS DO NOT JUST DISAPPEAR.


ZENN-LA DID! SEE FOR YOURSELF!
WE WERE STUDYING TIDAL PATTERNS.
"EVERYTHING APPEARED NORMAL.
"THEN WITHOUT WARNING...
"...ZENN-LA WAS GONE AND IN IT'S PLACE--"
WHAT IS THAT?
WE HAVE NO IDEA.
IT FADED FROM VIEW SECONDS AFTER IT APPEARED.

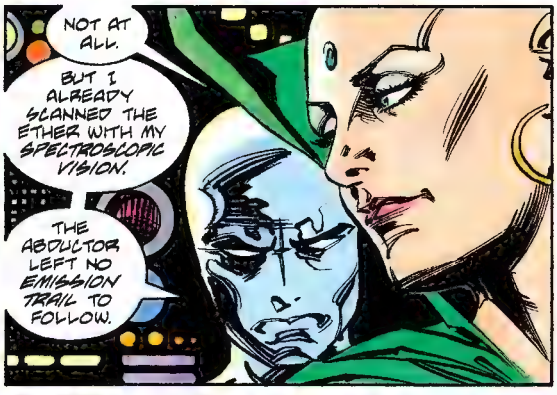

IT IS A SYMBOLIC MENTAL AFTER-IMAGE, LEFT BY THE ENTITY THAT ABDUCTED YOUR PLANET.
WHO?

I AM CALLED MOONDRAGON.
ONE OF ADAM WARLOCK'S INFINITY GUARD?
I POSSESS AN INFINITY GEM.
THE POWERFUL MIND GEM, WHICH GRANTS ITS WEARER MIGHTY TELEPATHIC AND TELEKINETIC ABILITIES.


WHICH EXPLAINS HOW YOU ENTERED THIS SATELLITE UNDETECTED.
BUT NOT WHY.
I LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I'M GETTING INTO BEFORE ANNOUNCING MY PRESENCE.


AND IT APPEARS ZENN-LA'S CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE TRULY UNIQUE, WELL WORTH MY INTEREST.
YOUR FINDINGS SO FAR?
THAT YOUR WORLD WAS STOLEN BY A POWERFUL PSYCHIC INTELLECT.
I SENSED ITS AWESOME MIGHT AT WORK SOME FIFTY LIGHT YEARS AWAY.

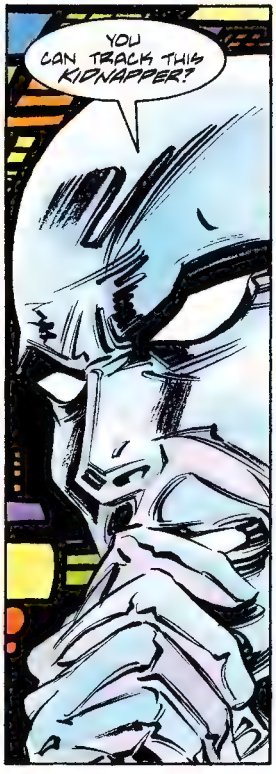
AND, NATURALLY, YOU CAME TO INVESTIGATE.
OF COURSE.
BUT LIKE ME, ARRIVED TOO LATE.

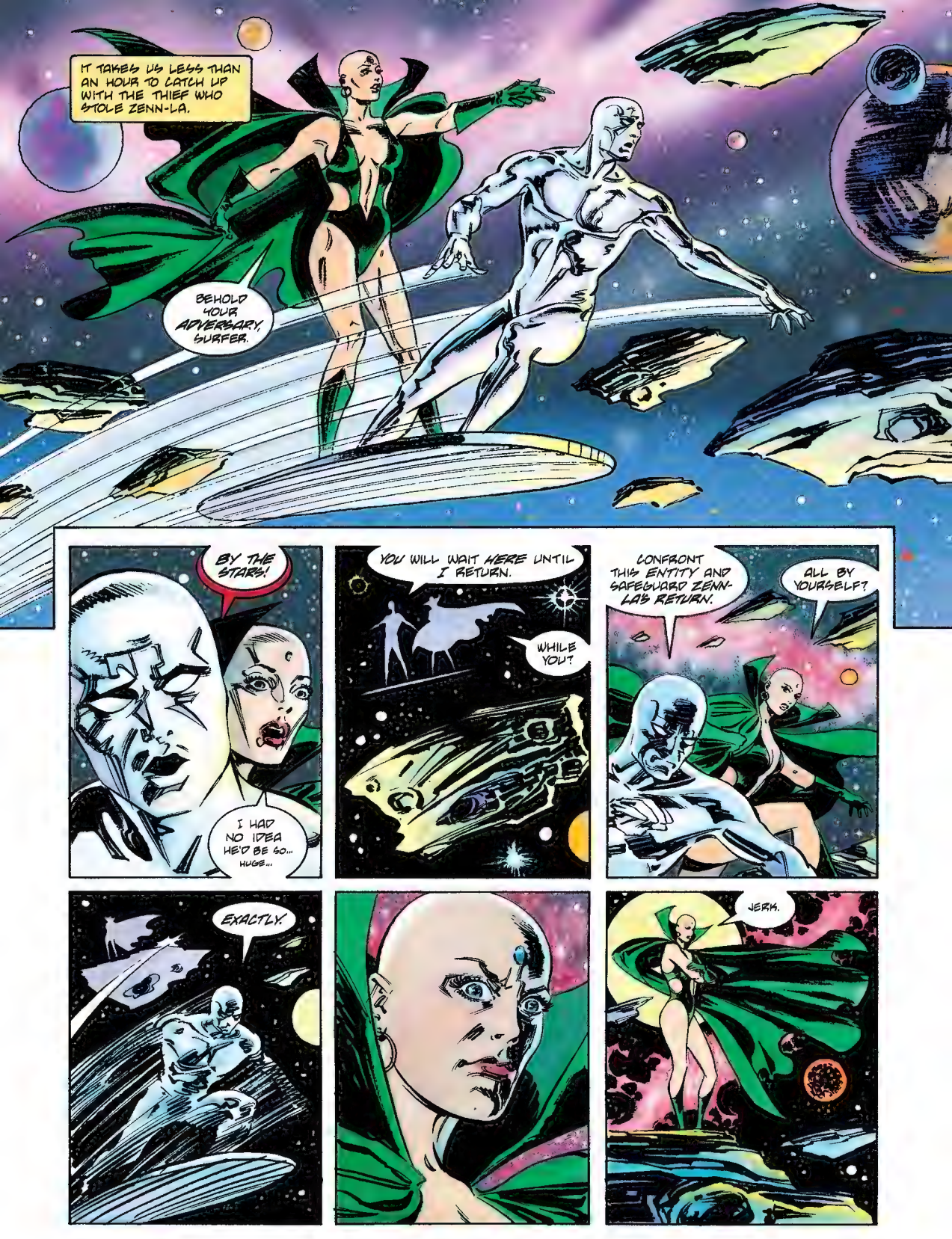

NOT AT ALL.
BUT I ALREADY SCANNED THE ETHER WITH MY SPECTROSCOPIC VISION.
THE ABDUCTOR LEFT NO EMISSION TRAIL TO FOLLOW.

NO PHYSICAL EMISSION!

MEANING?

THERE ARE PLANES OF EXISTENCE BEYOND EVEN YOUR ABILITIES TO DETECT, SURFER.


YOU CAN TRACK THIS KIDNAPPER?


IT TAKES US LESS THAN AN HOUR TO CATCH UP WITH THE THIEF WHO STOLE ZENN-LA.
BEHOLD YOUR ADVERSARY, SURFER.
BY THE STARS!
I HAD NO IDEA HE'D BE SO... HUGE...
YOU WILL WAIT HERE UNTIL I RETURN.
WHILE YOU?
CONFRONT THIS ENTITY AND SAFEGUARD ZENN-LA'S RETURN.
ALL BY YOURSELF?
EXACTLY.
JERK.

THE ONLY THING I SENSE ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS CREATURE IS *POWER*.

IT HOUSES *HUGE* STORES OF IT.

BUT TRACKING DOWN THE *THIEF* PRESENTS ME WITH MORE *QUESTIONS* THAN *ANSWERS*.

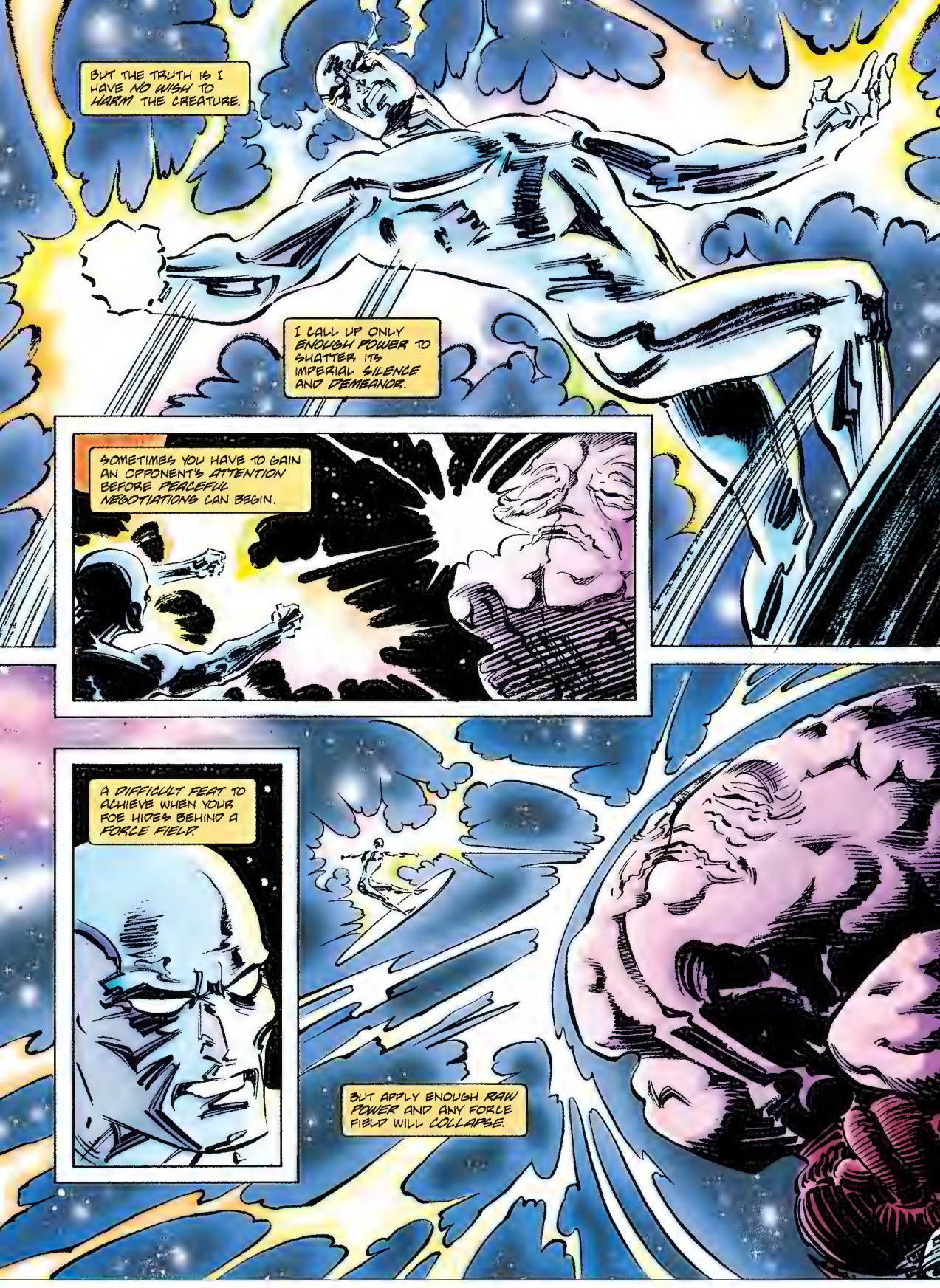
SUCH AS *WHAT* HAS THIS BEING DONE WITH *ZENN-LA*?

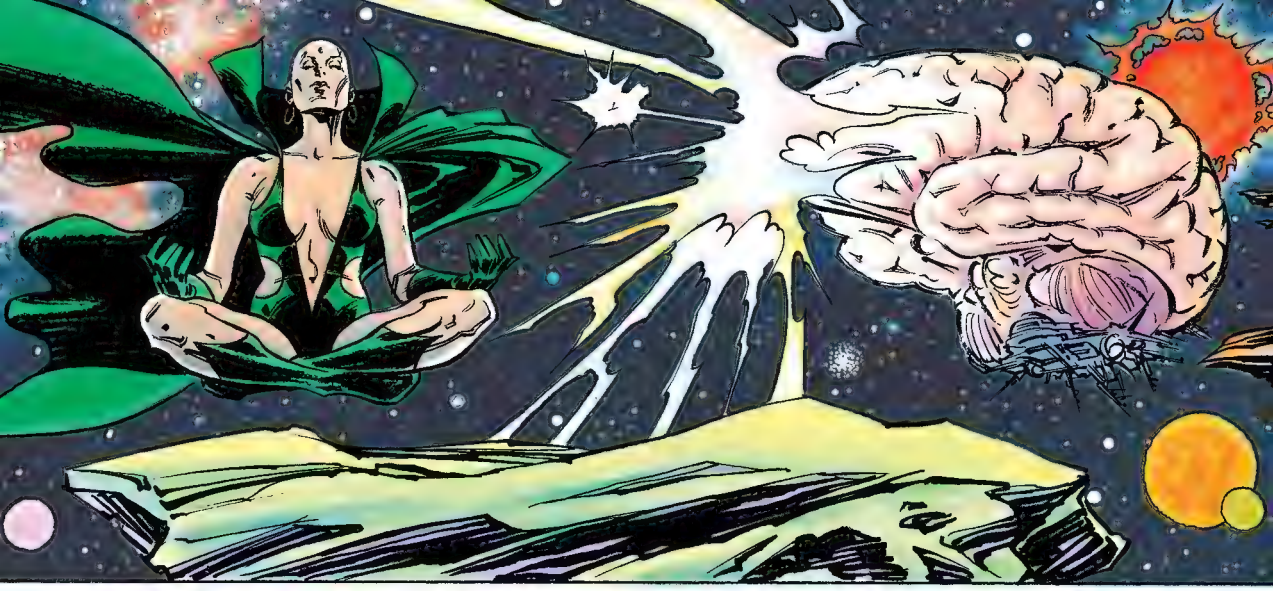
AS *LARGE* AS IT IS, THIS ENTITY WOULD STILL BE *DWARFED* BY ZENN-LA'S MASS.

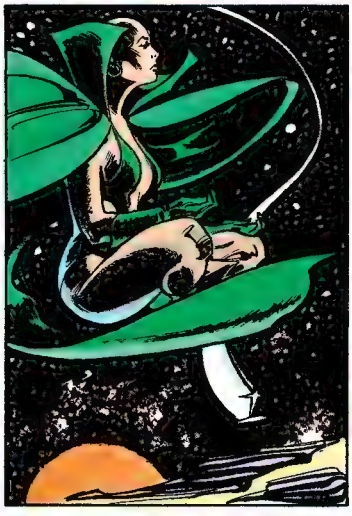
I HAD HOPED MY *HOMEWORLD* WOULD STILL BE IN ITS *POSSESSION*.

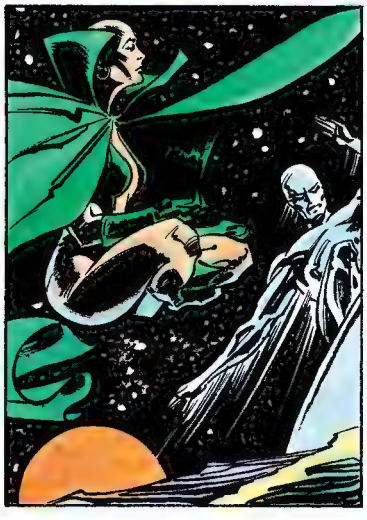
IT BECOMES PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THIS MATTER WILL NOT BE *EASILY RESOLVED*.

ENTITY, I AM THE SILVER SURFER, PROTECTOR OF THE PLANET YOU HAVE STOLEN.
YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN SAID WORLD TO ITS PROPER ORBIT OR FACE MY WRATH.
I WARN YOU, I WILL NOT BE DENIED.
AND I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO BACK UP MY DEMANDS.
VERY WELL, IF THAT IS HOW YOU WISH TO PLAY THIS OUT...


BUT THE TRUTH IS I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM THE CREATURE.
I CALL UP ONLY ENOUGH POWER TO SHATTER ITS IMPERIAL SILENCE AND DEMEANOR.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO GAIN AN OPPONENT'S ATTENTION BEFORE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN.
A DIFFICULT FEAT TO ACHIEVE WHEN YOUR FOE HIDES BEHIND A FORCE FIELD.
BUT APPLY ENOUGH RAW POWER AND ANY FORCE FIELD WILL COLLAPSE.







IN NEED OF SOME ASSISTANCE?
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS CREATURE?

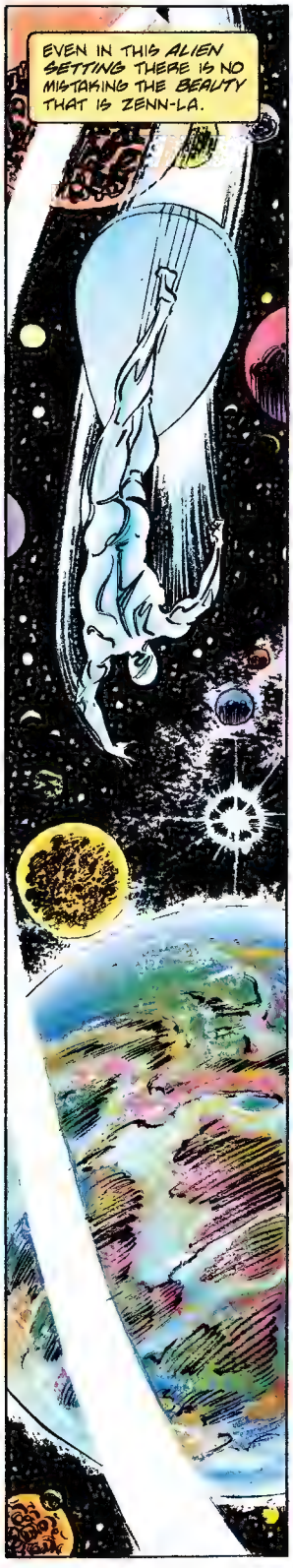
THAT ITS DEFENSES ARE AN AUTOMATIC FUNCTION OF ITS BEING.
AND THAT IT SPENDS THE MAJORITY OF ITS EXISTENCE IN A DEEP ALPHA STATE.
MEANING?

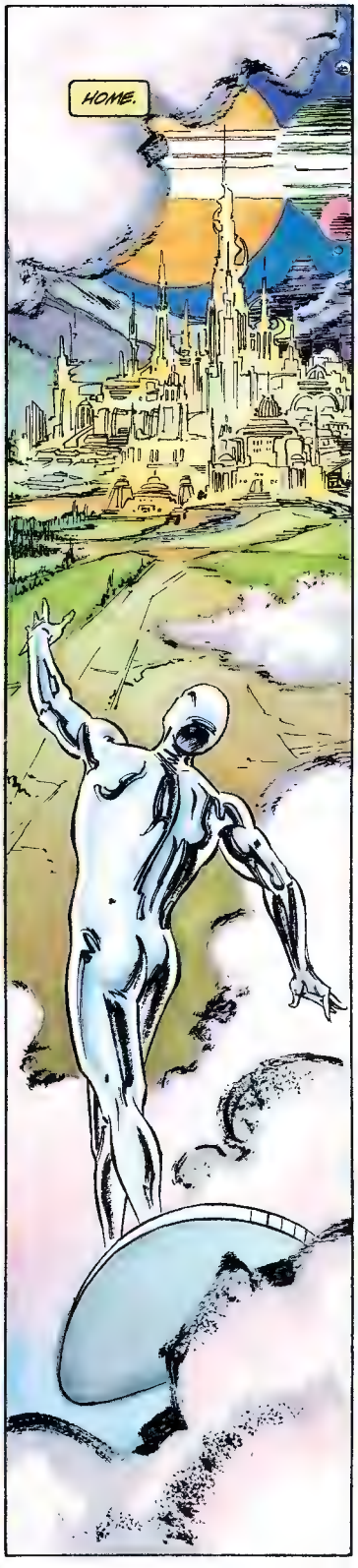
IT PROBABLY WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF YOUR ASSAULT, MUCH LESS YOUR DEMANDS.
IT'S A DREAMER, A VERY POWERFUL DREAMER.
THE CREATURE'S PHYSICAL MIGHT PROBABLY EQUALS THAT OF YOUR FRIEND GALACTUS.
BUT ITS TRUE POWER LIES WITHIN ITS INTELLECT.
SO IS THERE ANY WAY TO CONTACT THIS INTELLECT?
IT HAS THUS FAR IGNORED MY ATTEMPTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH IT TELEPATHICALLY.
CAN YOU SEE ANY MEANS I MIGHT USE TO FORCE IT INTO RETURNING ZENN-LA?
YOU?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO.
THERE IS.
YOU CAN PUT YOURSELF COMPLETELY IN MY POWER.
WILL THAT FREE ZENN-LA?
NO.
BUT BY THE USE OF MY MENTAL ABILITIES...
I CAN TRANSPORT YOU TO ZENN-LA.

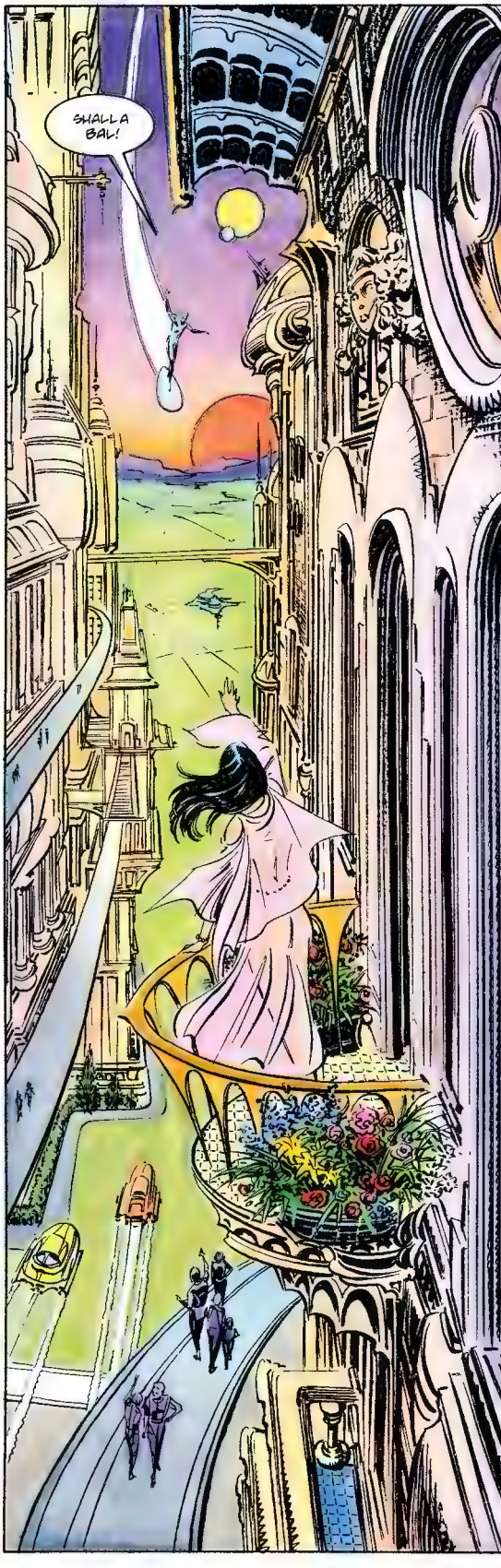
I DO NOT COMPLETELY TRUST THIS MOONDRAGON, BUT ADAM WARLOCK OBVIOUSLY DID WHEN HE MADE HER A GUARDIAN OF ONE OF THE INFINITY GEMS. SO...
YOU MUST RELAX YOURSELF TOTALLY.
DO NOT FIGHT ME.
YOUR ID AND EGO MUST BE SURRENDERED.
ONLY THEN CAN YOUR PSYCHE BE PROJECTED TO ZENN-LA.
"ZENN-LA NO LONGER EXISTS AS YOU KNEW IT.
"IT IS NOW BUT A MEMORY.
"A THOUGHT."
"IT HAS BEEN DISASSEMBLED BROKEN DOWN AND STORED AWAY...
"...AS A BRAINWAVE.
"IT'S EXISTENCE IS THAT OF A DREAM WITHIN THE ENTITY'S MIND.
"TO FIND ZENN-LA, YOU MUST...
"...ASSUME THAT SAME STATE."

"SURFER, OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE REALM OF THE MIND!"
NO!
TOO LATE!

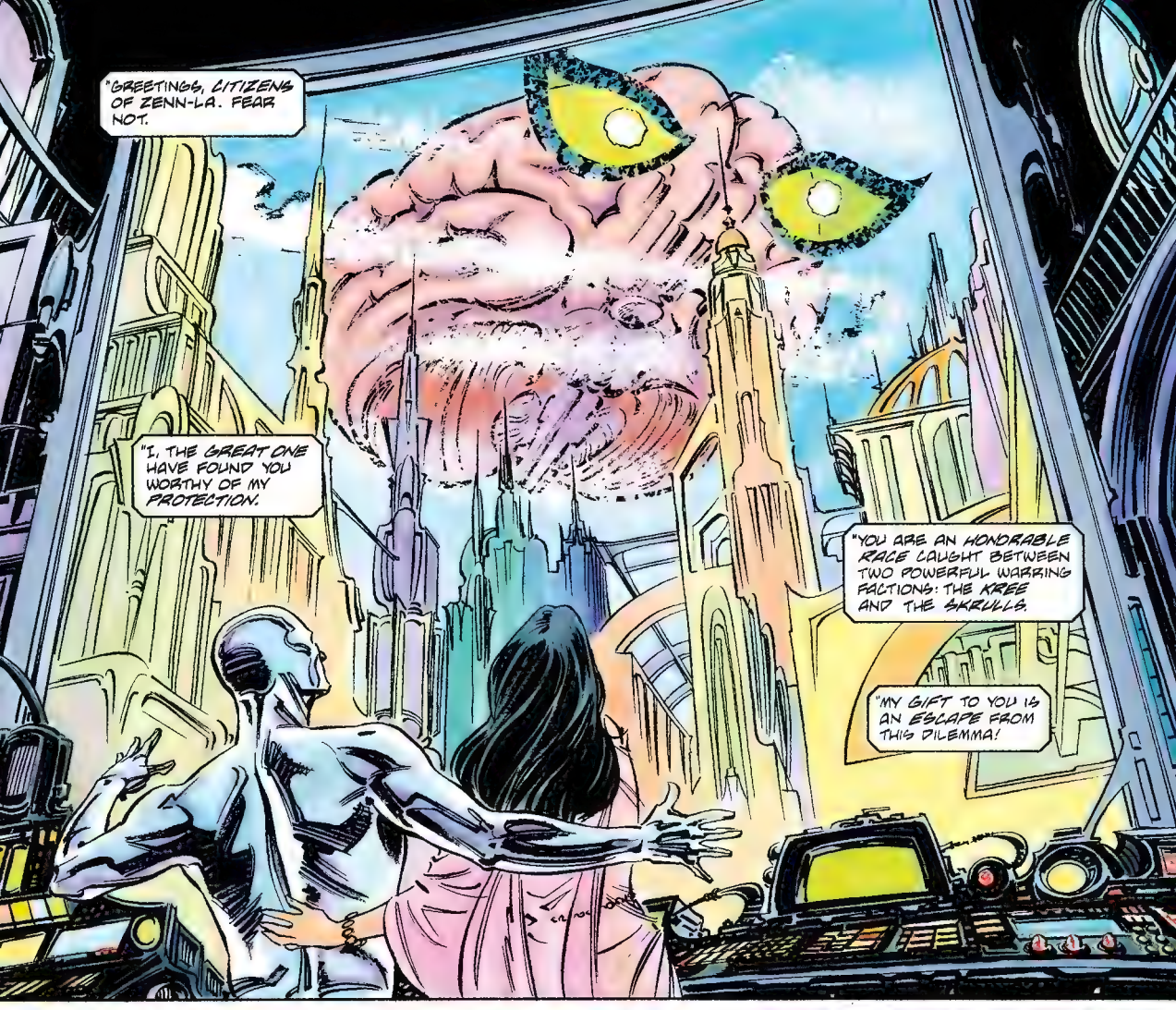
A UNIVERSE NATURE NEVER CREATED.
MOONDRAGON, THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF WORLDS IN HERE!
"HIS COLLECTION."
HOW?
"BY THE USE OF POWERS AND SCIENCES BEYOND EITHER YOUR OR MY CONCEPTION."
WHAT NOW?
"I SUGGEST YOU QUICKLY LOCATE YOUR PRECIOUS HOMEWORLD."

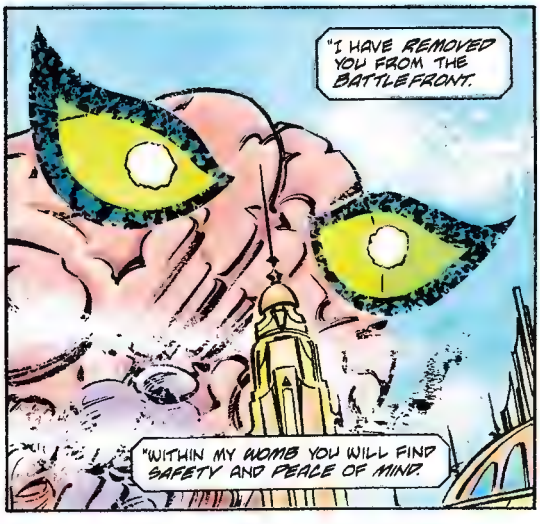

EVEN IN THIS ALIEN SETTING THERE IS NO MISTAKING THE BEAUTY THAT IS ZENN-LA.

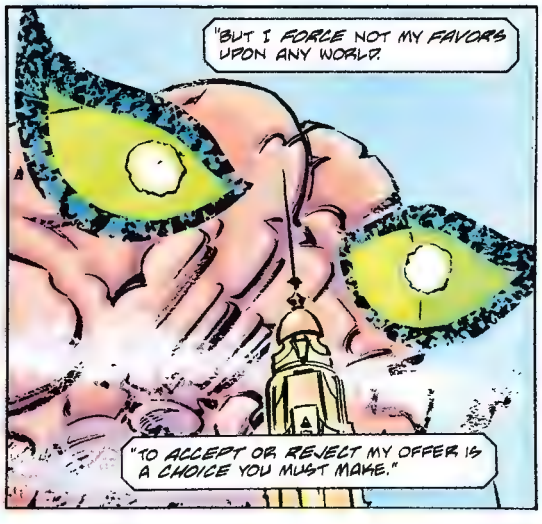

HOME.


SHALLA BAL!

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE I LOVED THIS WOMAN?
IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER.
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE CIRCUMSTANCE KEPT US APART?
IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER.
OH, NORRIN.
SO MANY CHANGES.
SO MUCH TO TELL YOU.
WHERE TO BEGIN?
HOW ABOUT STARTING WITH ZENN-LA'S DISAPPEAR-ANCE?
AT FIRST, WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAD OCCURRED.
THEN THE GREAT ONE ARRIVED AND EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.
THE GREAT ONE?
HE SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE SKY OVER THE CITY.
HERE.
YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF.


"GREETINGS, CITIZENS OF ZENN-LA. FEAR NOT.
"I, THE GREAT ONE HAVE FOUND YOU WORTHY OF MY PROTECTION.
"YOU ARE AN HONORABLE RACE CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO POWERFUL WARRING FACTIONS: THE KREE AND THE SKRULLS.
"MY GIFT TO YOU IS AN ESCAPE FROM THIS DILEMMA!

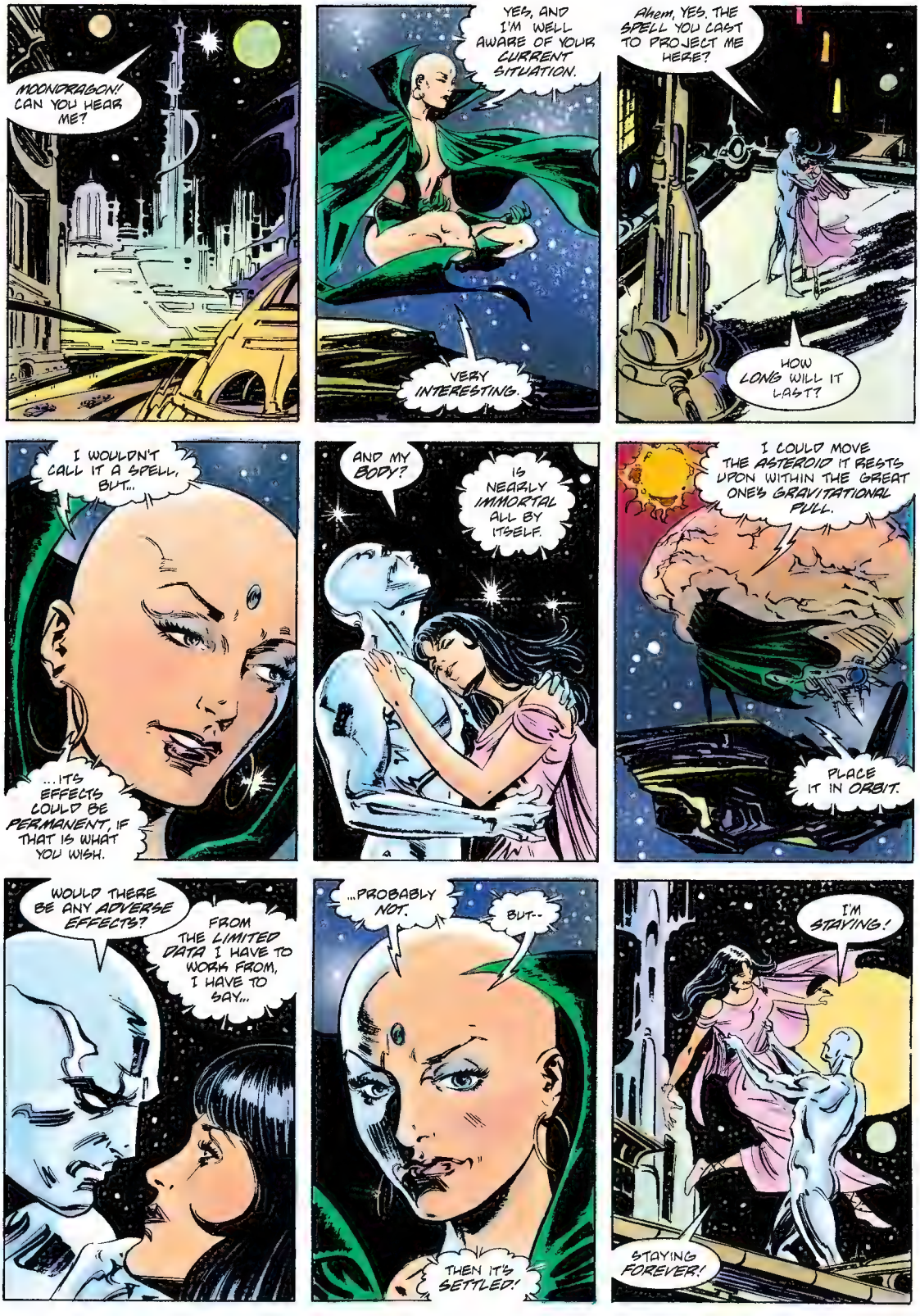

"I HAVE REMOVED YOU FROM THE BATTLEFRONT.
"WITHIN MY WOMB YOU WILL FIND SAFETY AND PEACE OF MIND.

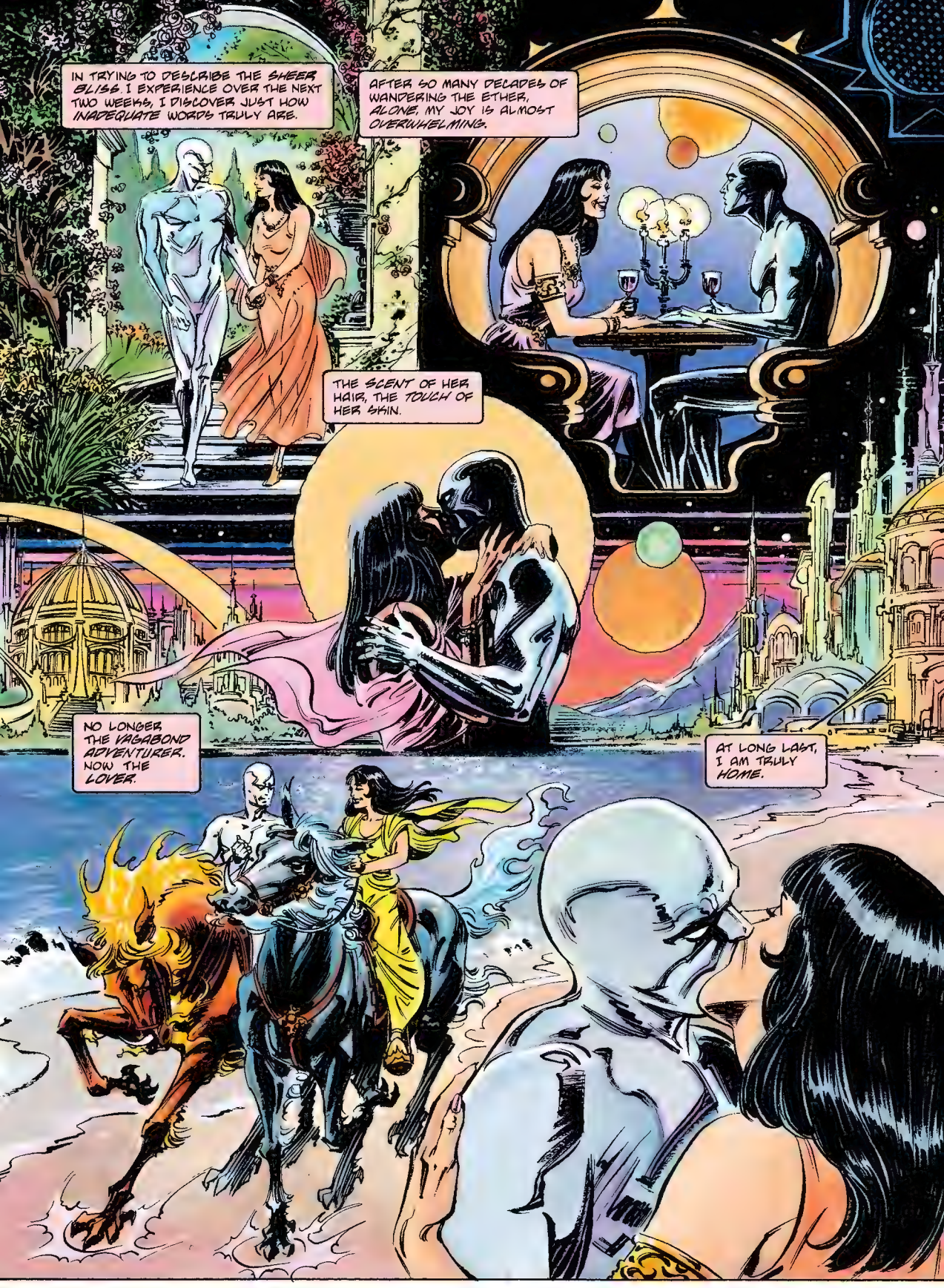

"BUT I FORCE NOT MY FAVORS UPON ANY WORLD.
"TO ACCEPT OR REJECT MY OFFER IS A CHOICE YOU MUST MAKE."

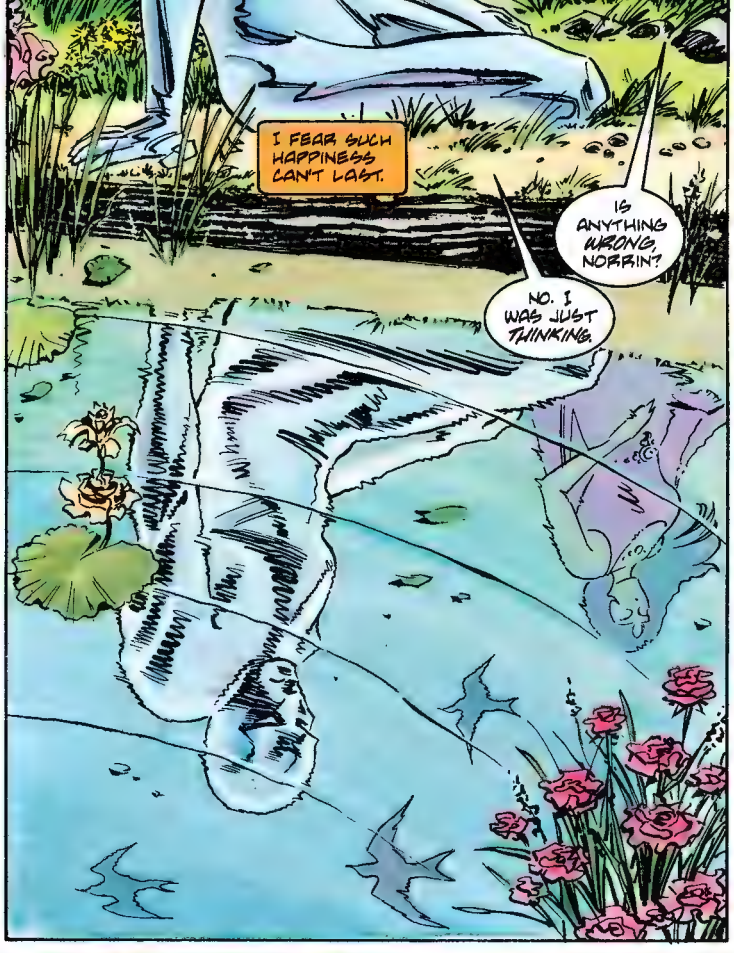
SO THE MATTER WAS BRIEFLY DEBATED.
THE ISSUES WEIGHED.
AND IN THE END VOTED ON BY EVERY CITIZEN OF ZENN-LA.
AND YOU CHOSE TO STAY?
ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY. WHY NOT?
FOR YEARS ONLY YOUR POWER HAS KEPT THE KREE AND SKRULLS IN CHECK.
BUT YOU LEAD A PERILOUS EXISTENCE, NORRIN RADD.
IF YOU WERE TO DIE IN BATTLE, ZENN-LA WOULD BECOME EASY PREY.
WE WERE OFFERED A WAY OUT OF THAT UNTENABLE POSITION.
I UNDERSTAND.
THEN, SHORTLY AFTER MAKING OUR DECISION, WE DISCOVERED THAT LIVING ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE HAS AN UNEXPECTED SECONDARY BENEFIT.
WHICH IS?
ZENN-LA AND EVERYONE ON THE PLANET IS NOW A SERIES OF THOUGHT PATTERNS WITHIN AN IMMORTAL ENTITY.

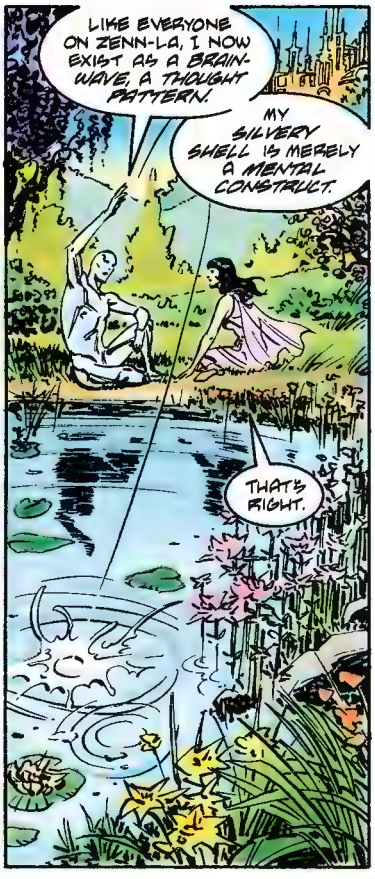
YOU MEAN?
EXACTLY. A BRAINWAVE DOES NOT AGE.
EVERYONE ON ZENN-LA HAS BECOME IMMORTAL!
AMAZING.
THE POSSIBILITIES THIS CHANGE ENGENDERS ARE ENDLESS.
FOR ZENN-LA ANYTHING IS NOW POSSIBLE.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT NOW.
SO MANY CHANGES.
ALL FOR THE BETTER.
ARE THEY TRULY?
I BELIEVE THEY ARE.
ESPECIALLY THE WAY THEY AFFECT THINGS BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUTSIDE FORCES THAT HAVE KEPT US APART.
OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO ZENN-LA HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A BARRIER TO OUR LOVE.

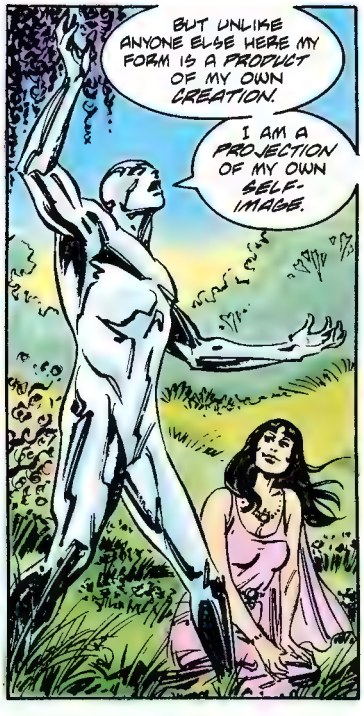
BUT NOW THERE ARE NO LONGER ANY OUTSIDE FORCES AT WORK HERE.
THE GREAT ONE HAS RELIEVED US OF MOST RESPONSIBILITY.
THE NEXT FEW HOURS BLUR INTO MEMORIES MOST ECSTATIC.


MOONDRAGON! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YES, AND I'M WELL AWARE OF YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.
VERY INTERESTING.
Ahem, YES. THE SPELL YOU CAST TO PROJECT ME HERE?
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?
I WOULDN'T CALL IT A SPELL, BUT...
...IT'S EFFECTS COULD BE PERMANENT, IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WISH.
AND MY BODY?
IS NEARLY IMMORTAL ALL BY ITSELF.
I COULD MOVE THE ASTEROID IT RESTS UPON WITHIN THE GREAT ONE'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL.
PLACE IT IN ORBIT.
WOULD THERE BE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS?
FROM THE LIMITED DATA I HAVE TO WORK FROM, I HAVE TO SAY...
...PROBABLY NOT.
BUT--
THEN IT'S SETTLED!
I'M STAYING!
STAYING FOREVER!


IN TRYING TO DESCRIBE THE SHEER BLISS I EXPERIENCE OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, I DISCOVER JUST HOW INADEQUATE WORDS TRULY ARE.
AFTER SO MANY DECADES OF WANDERING THE ETHER, ALONE, MY JOY IS ALMOST OVERWHELMING.
THE SCENT OF HER HAIR, THE TOUCH OF HER SKIN.
NO LONGER THE VAGABOND ADVENTURER. NOW THE LOVER.
AT LONG LAST, I AM TRULY HOME.


I FEAR SUCH HAPPINESS CAN'T LAST.
IS ANYTHING WRONG, NORRIN?
NO. I WAS JUST THINKING.


LIKE EVERYONE ON ZENN-LA, I NOW EXIST AS A BRAIN-WAVE, A THOUGHT PATTERN.
MY SILVERY SHELL IS MERELY A MENTAL CONSTRUCT.
THAT'S RIGHT.


BUT UNLIKE ANYONE ELSE HERE MY FORM IS A PRODUCT OF MY OWN CREATION.
I AM A PROJECTION OF MY OWN SELF-IMAGE.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY.
I THINK I UNDER-STAND.

WELCOME HOME, NORRIN RADD!
AND SO ENDS THE STORY OF THE SILVER SURFER.

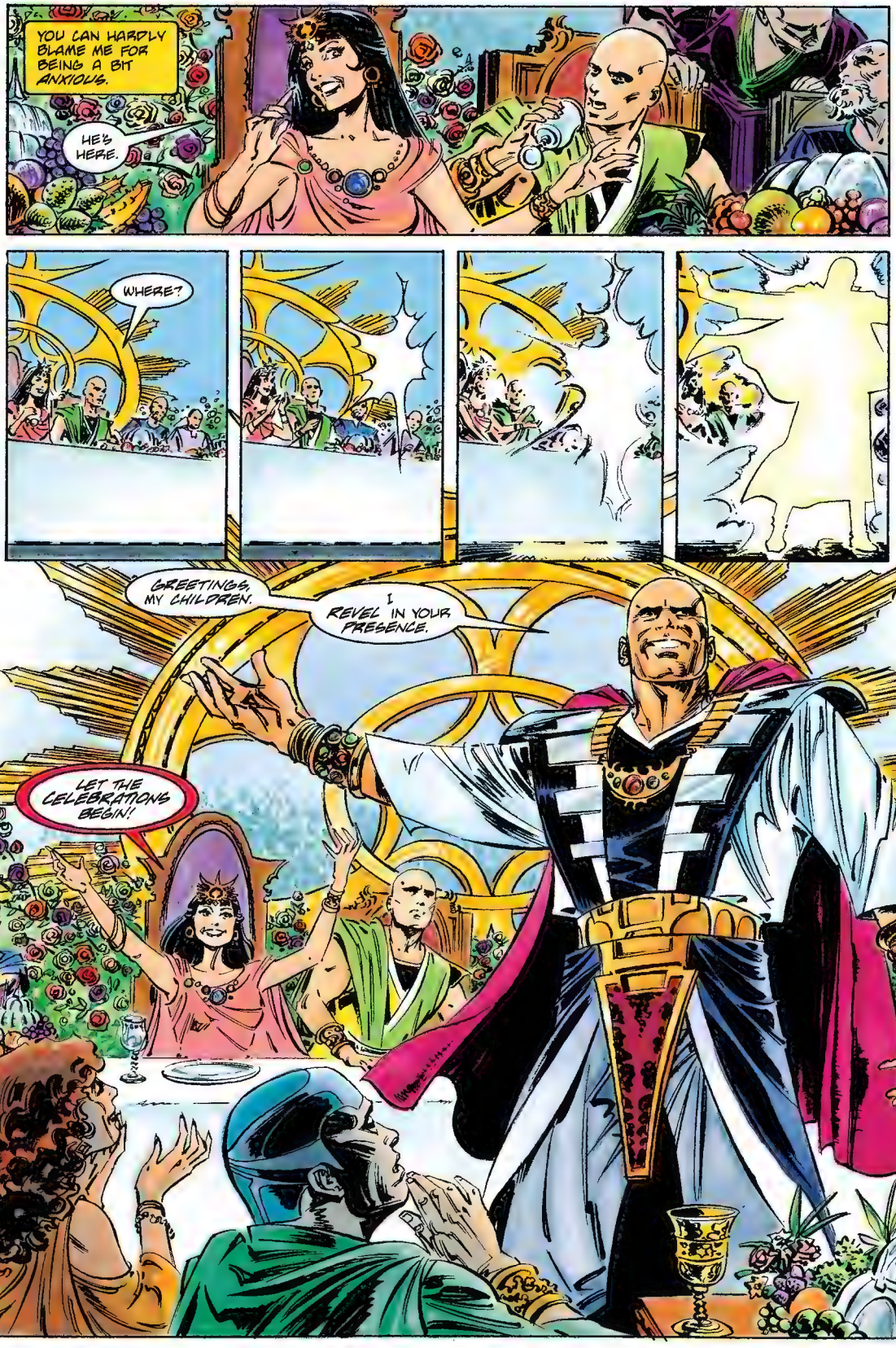
I FIND NORRIN RADD'S LIFE, OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, MORE THAN SATISFYING ENOUGH.
YOUR HIGHNESS.

EMPRESS SHALLA, DO YOU FEEL IT?
OF COURSE, FOR SOME TIME NOW.
YOU HAVE BEGUN PREPARATIONS?

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHAT PREPARATIONS?
FOR THE GREAT ONES ARRIVAL.

HE'S COMING FOR HIS FIRST OFFICIAL STATE VISIT.
AND YOU SENSED THIS?
OF COURSE, EVERYBODY DOES.

I DON'T.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ZENN-LA IN SUCH A FESTIVE MOOD. THE BANQUET AND CELEBRATION ARE THE MOST ELABORATE EVER PREPARED.
IN MANY WAYS IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE WORSHIPPERS READYING TO MEET THEIR MAKER.
ADMITTEDLY I SHARE MUCH OF THIS SAME FEELING.
I AM ABOUT TO MEET THE BENEFACTOR WHO HAS GRANTED ME LONG-SOUGHT-FOR PEACE AND INDESCRIBABLE HAPPINESS.


YOU CAN HARDLY BLAME ME FOR BEING A BIT ANXIOUS.
HE'S HERE.
WHERE?
GREETINGS, MY CHILDREN.
I REVEL IN YOUR PRESENCE.
LET THE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN!

I AM TRULY PLEASED AT HOW WELL YOUR PEOPLE HAVE ADJUSTED TO THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
IT IS NO DIFFICULT TASK ADJUSTING TO NIRVANA, MY LIEGE.

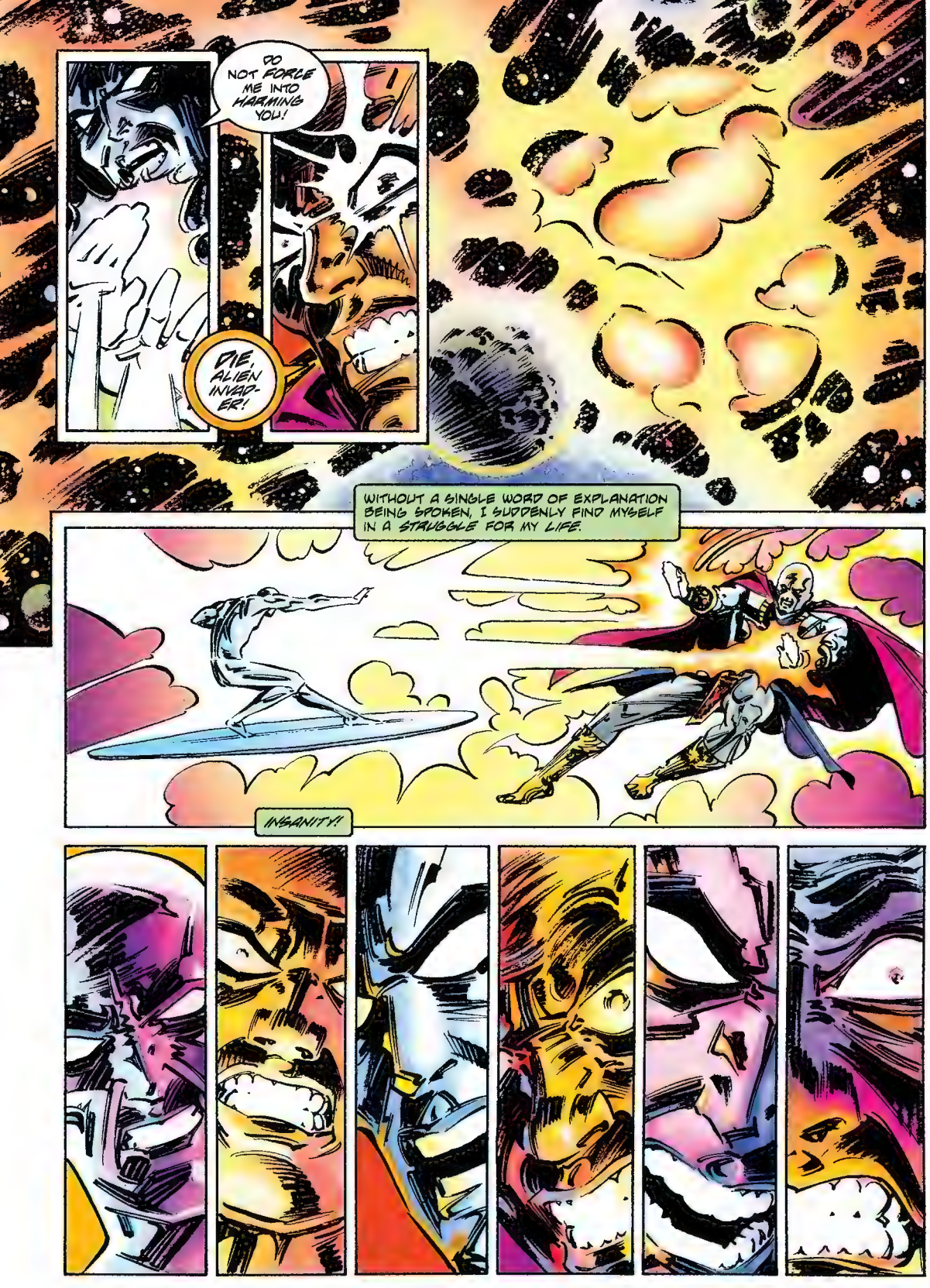
'TIS HARDLY THAT, KIND EMPRESS.
BUT IT IS. WE ALL OWE YOU SO MUCH.
MORE THAN WE CAN EVER REPAY.
MY NATURE IS SUCH I CAN DO NO LESS.

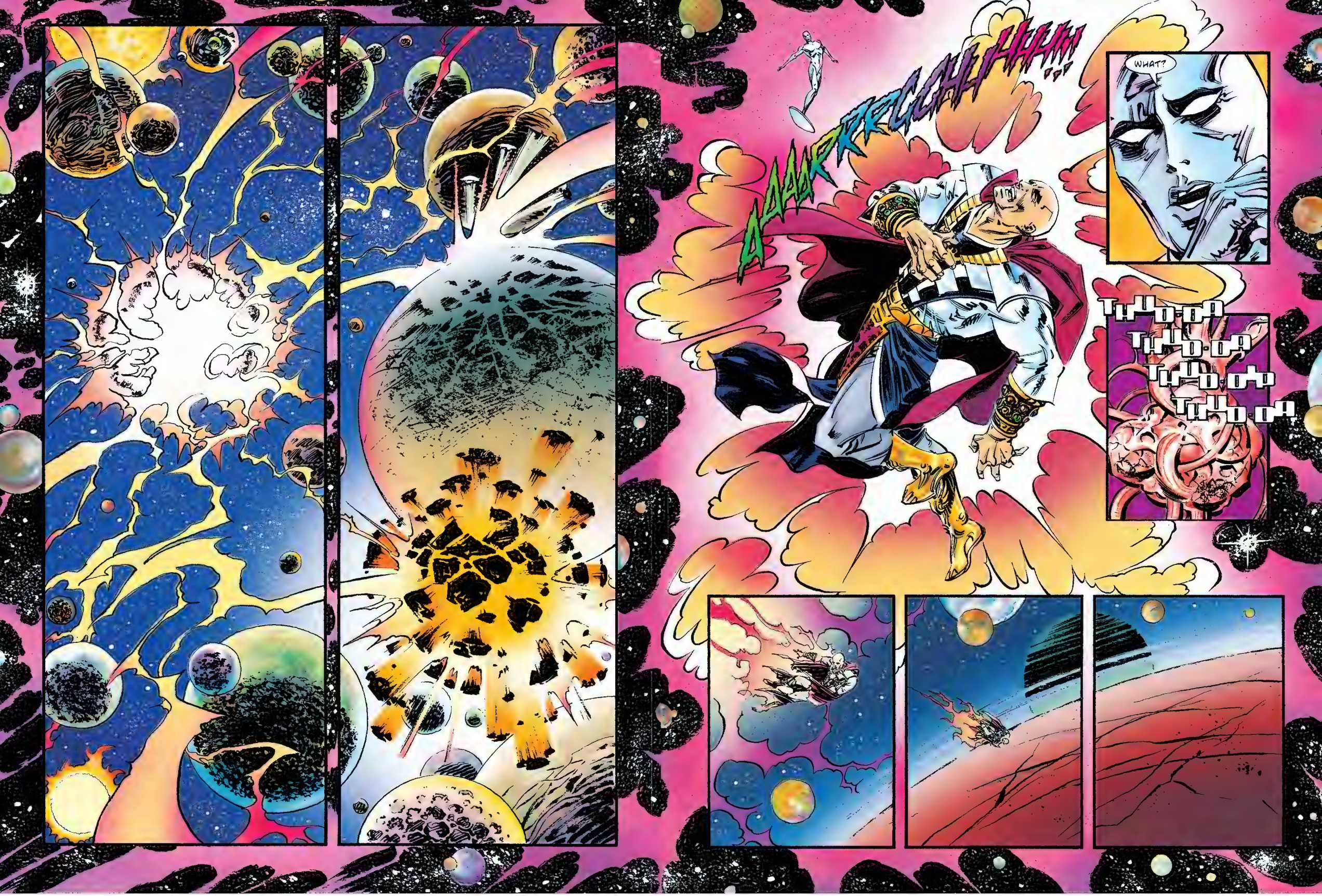
THERE IS SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.
INTRODUCTIONS ARE UNNECESSARY. EVERYONE WITHIN MY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IS KNOWN TO--
AN INVADER WITHIN MY REALM!
WHAT?
I THINK HE MEANS ME.

STAY THY HAND ALL POWERFUL GREAT ONE.
I COME TO YOU WITH ONLY PEACEFUL INTENTIONS IN MY HEART.

MY MIND REELS!
WHY DOES HE ATTACK ME WITHOUT PROVOCATION?
HIS AND MY OWN POWERS ARE TOO GREAT TO RISK A CONFRONTATION ON ZENN-LA.
SO..
MY LIEGE, NORRIN RADD IS A GOOD AND HONORABLE MAN!
HE IS NO THREAT TO YOU!
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
PLEASE!

AGAIN, I ASK WHAT PROMPTS THIS UNWARRANTED ASSAULT?
I AM--
ENOUGH!
LET IT BE KNOWN THAT YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY BEING OF POWER IN THIS REALM.


DO NOT FORCE ME INTO HARMING YOU!
DIE, ALIEN INVADER!
WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD OF EXPLANATION BEING SPOKEN, I SUDDENLY FIND MYSELF IN A STRUGGLE FOR MY LIFE.
INSANITY!

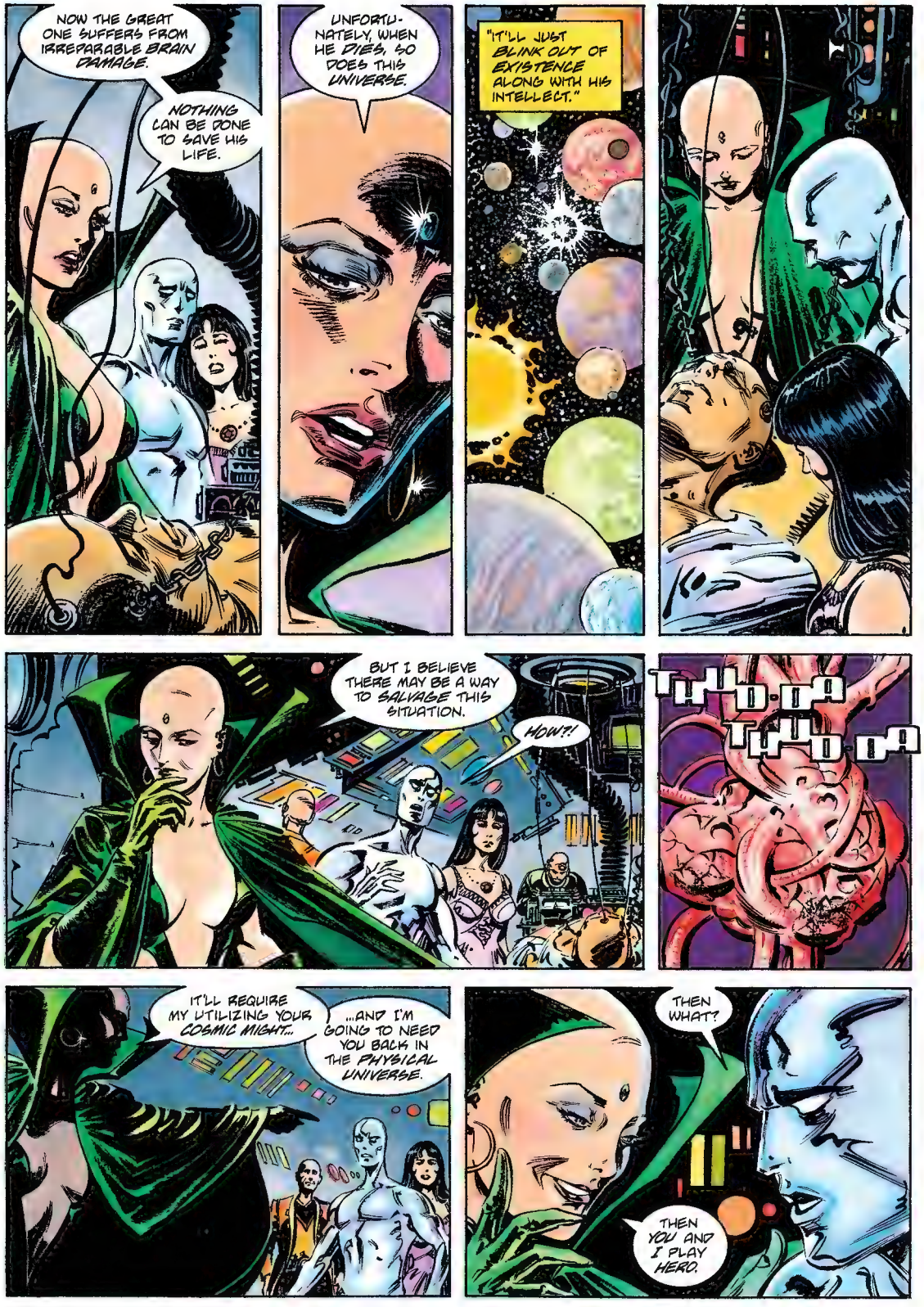

AAAARRGGHHHHH
WHAT?
TUM-DA
TUM-DA
TUM-DA
TUM-DA

WHUMP
WHY?
WHY DID YOU ATTACK ME?
AND WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THIS STATE?
SURELY NOT MY POWER; I COULD NOT BREACH YOUR DEFENSES.
YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER TO MY UNIVERSE.
ONLY YOU COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO ME.
THIS UNIVERSE IS MINE AND... IT IS MY MIND.
DURING OUR BATTLE YOUR MIGHT DESTROYED A SMALL... INSIGNIFICANT AND UNINHABITED SATELLITE.
NO ONE BUT AN OUTSIDER... COULD DO THIS...
...COULD DESTROY ME.

I AM DYING...
THUD-DA THUD-DA
SUCH A WASTE.
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK.
I WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED PARADISE ON YOUR TERMS.
I COULD HAVE RETURNED TO REALITY AND BEEN CONVERTED PROPERLY.
SO THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.
AND IF YOU COULD NOT ACCEPT ME, I WOULD HAVE LEFT PEACE-FULLY...
...FOR ZENN-LA'S SAKE.
BUT YOU NEVER GAVE ME THE CHANCE.
WHY DID YOU JUST UP AND ATTACK ME?

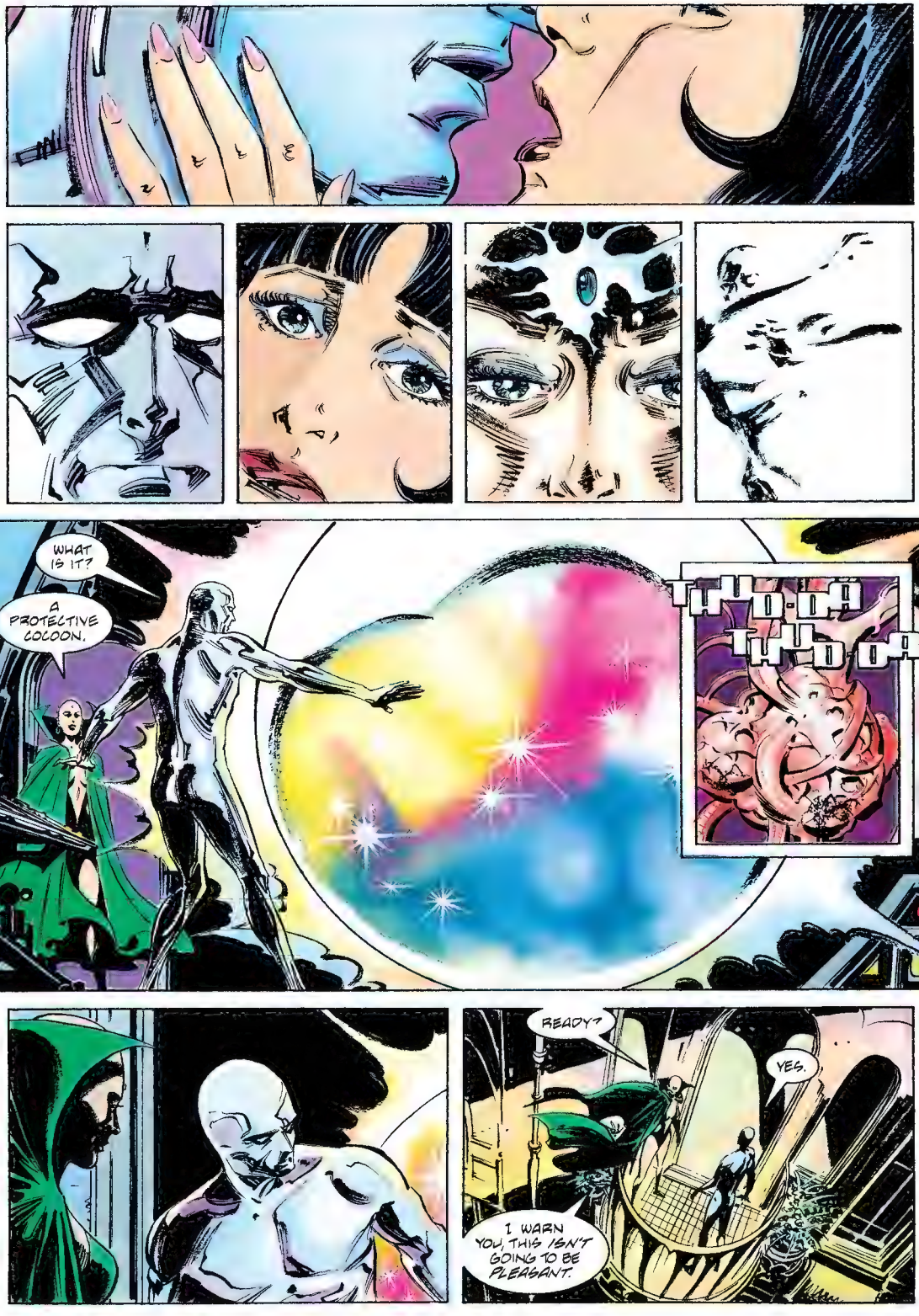
WHY!
TUM-DA TUM-DA
PANIC...
TUM-DA TUM-DA
ALL THAT POWER POSSESSED BY SUCH A FRIGHTENED SOUL.
TUM-DA TUM-DA
MAY THE HEAVENS SAVE US.
HE'S KILLED THE GREAT ONE!
NO! NO! NO!
QUICKLY, SET UP A MEDI-SCAN!
OH, NORRIN...

ACCORDING TO OUR INSTRUMENTATION, THE GREAT ONE IS ALREADY DEAD.
BUT I CAN STILL SEE HIM BREATHING!
THUD-DA THUD-DA
YOUR INSTRUMENTS ARE OF NO USE.
THE FORM BEFORE YOU IS BUT A MENTAL CONSTRUCT.
MOONDRAGON!
MERELY A TELEPATHIC PROJECTION.
I DECIDED TO REMAIN AWHILE TO SEE HOW THINGS WENT FOR YOU.
GOOD THING I DID.
CAN YOU HELP US?
SAVE THE GREAT ONE'S LIFE?
NO.
WHEN YOU DESTROYED THAT SATELLITE, YOU DESTROYED PART OF THE GREAT ONE'S INTELLECT.
I WAS A FOOL FOR ALLOWING YOU TO STAY.


NOW THE GREAT ONE SUFFERS FROM IRREPARABLE BRAIN DAMAGE.
NOTHING CAN BE DONE TO SAVE HIS LIFE.
UNFORTU-NATELY, WHEN HE DIES, SO DOES THIS UNIVERSE.
"IT'LL JUST BLINK OUT OF EXISTENCE ALONG WITH HIS INTELLECT."
BUT I BELIEVE THERE MAY BE A WAY TO SALVAGE THIS SITUATION.
HOW?!
TUD-DA TUD-DA
IT'LL REQUIRE MY UTILIZING YOUR COSMIC MIGHT...
...AND I'M GOING TO NEED YOU BACK IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.
THEN WHAT?
THEN YOU AND I PLAY HERO.

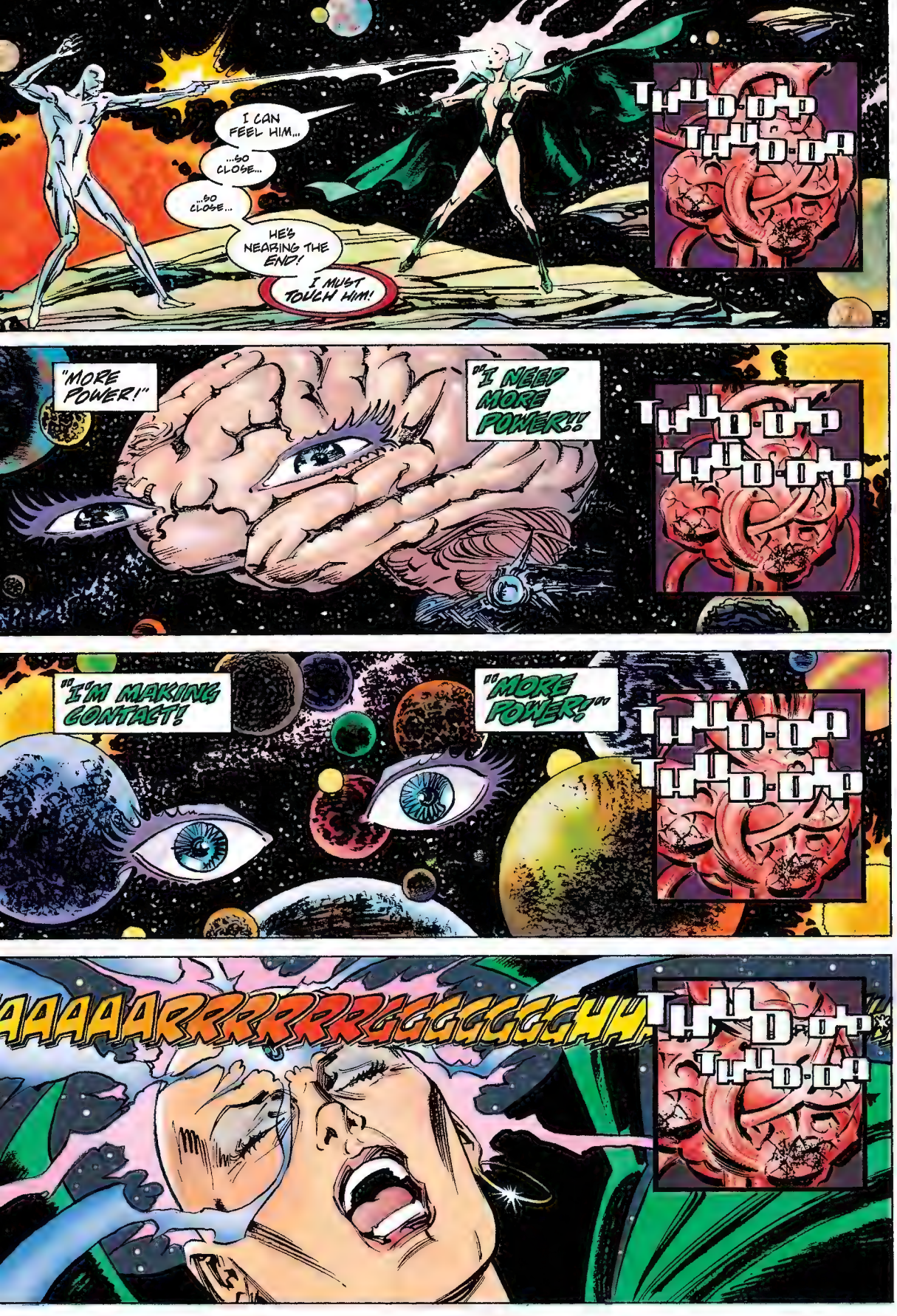
SEEING AS HOW HE'S LAPSED INTO A COMA, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAP INTO AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE GREAT ONE'S POWERS.
IN ORDER TO RETURN ALL THE PLANETS TO THEIR PROPER PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE?
EXACTLY.
BUT I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
THIS IS A TREMENDOUSLY INTRICATE PSYCHIC FEAT WE'RE ATTEMPTING.
REGRETTABLY, PSYCHIC SCIENCE HAS ITS OWN FORM OF GRAVITY.
I'M GOING TO NEED SOMETHING TO PLAY OFF OF.
IT WILL REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PUSH AND PULL.
WHAT I'LL NEED IS A CONSCIOUS INTELLIGENCE I CAN OPERATE THROUGH AT THIS END.
WHICH MEANS SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE TO REMAIN BEHIND.
I'LL DO IT.
NO.
WE'VE NO TIME TO ARGUE.

I'LL NOT LET YOU MAKE SUCH A SACRIFICE!
IT NEED NOT BE A SACRIFICE.
SHALLA BAL MUST ONLY STAY BEHIND LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO COMPLETE THE TRANSFER.
NOT A SECOND LONGER.
I CAN SEND YOU BACK TO RETRIEVE HER.
NO, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
IF ANYTHING SHOULD GO WRONG...
IT WON'T.
YOU'LL SEE TO THAT.
THIS IS THE WAY IT HAS TO BE, MY LOVE.
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME.

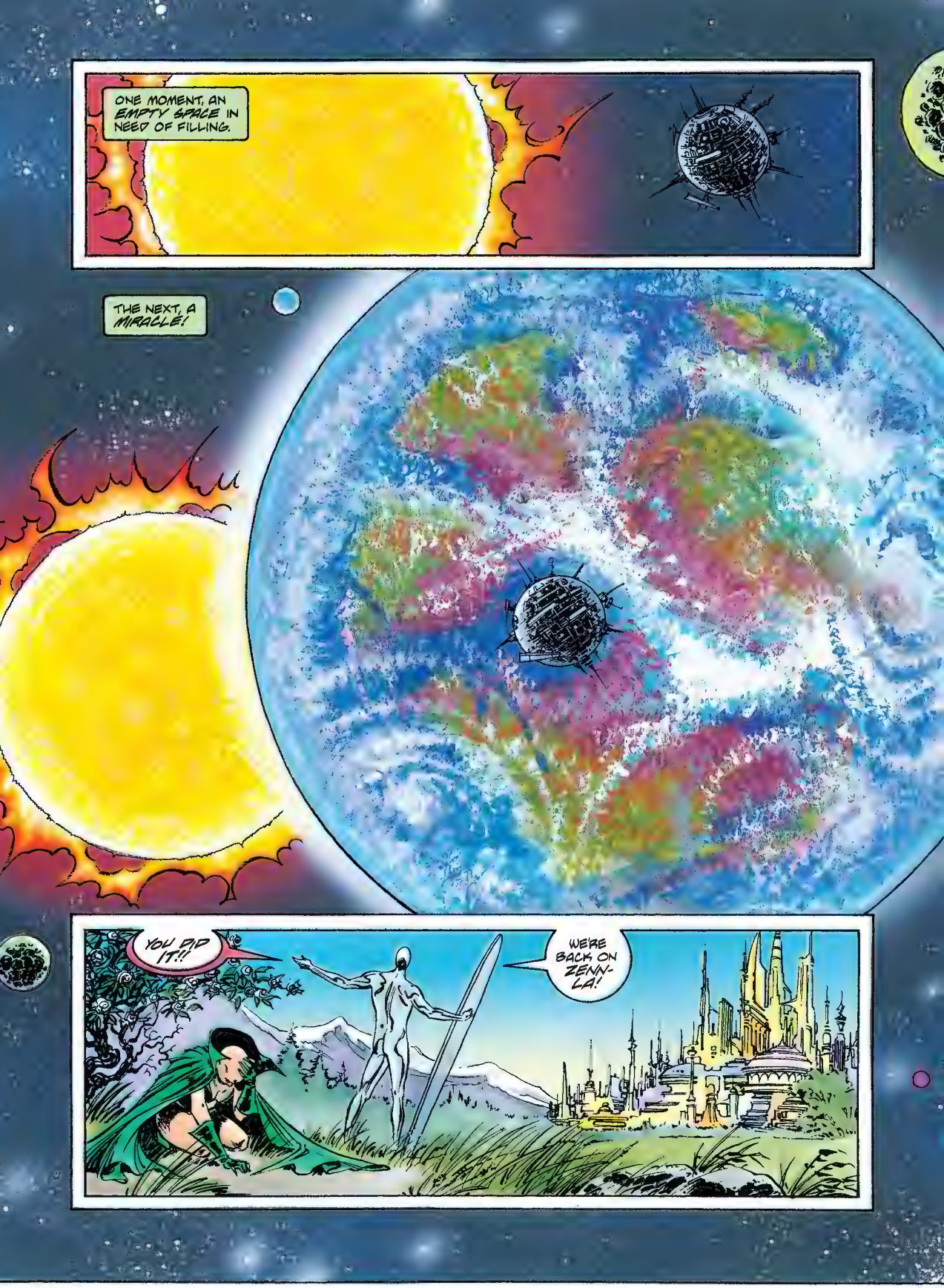

WHAT IS IT?
A PROTECTIVE COCOON.
THUD-DA THUD-DA
READY?
YES.
I WARN YOU, THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE PLEASANT.

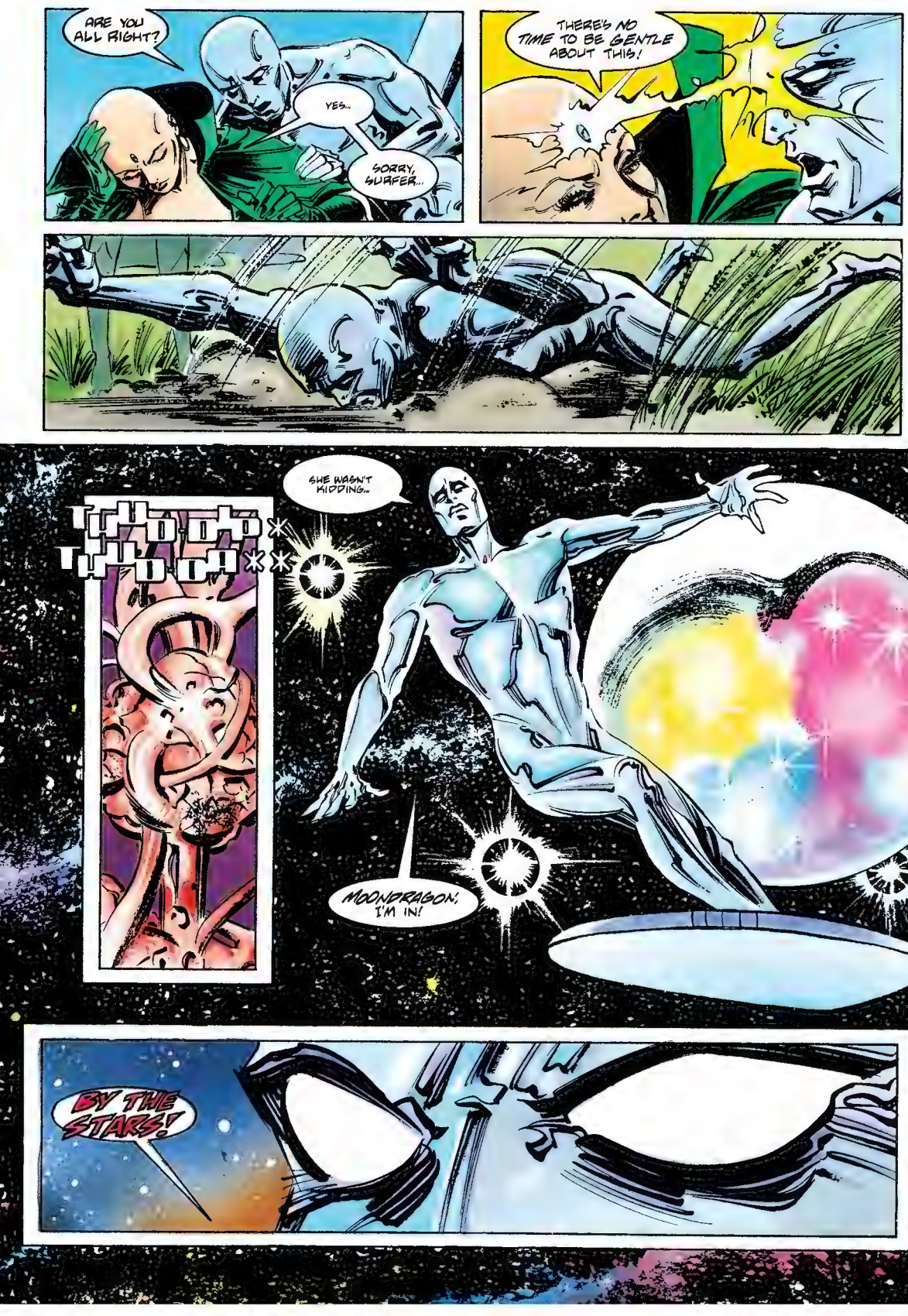
EEEEEEEEEEAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHH
WELCOME BACK TO THE FLESH.
FEELS SO STRANGE..
SO HEAVY...
NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
YOU'RE GOING TO PROVIDE ME WITH THE RAW POWER TO GET THE JOB DONE.
YOU ARE AN ENERGY ABSORBER AND CASTER.
FORTUNATELY, WE'RE QUITE NEAR A RED GIANT STAR.
TAP INTO IT AND TRANSFER WHAT YOU GAIN.
THAT WILL GIVE US NEARLY LIMITLESS ENERGY TO PLAY WITH.
WHERE SHOULD I DIRECT IT?
WHERE ELSE OTHER THAN RIGHT HERE.

THAT'S GOING TO BE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF BOILING ENERGY GOING THROUGH YOUR INFINITY GEM.
CAN YOU PHYSICALLY HANDLE IT?
MIGHT BURN OUT A LOBE OR TWO, WHO KNOWS?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
BUT--
NO ARGUMENTS.
WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTION.
THEN LET US BE ABOUT IT!
POWER ME UP SURFER.
THUD DA THUD DA
MORE POWER!
BUT YOUR MIND!
THE HEAT!
MORE!


I CAN FEEL HIM...
...SO CLOSE...
...SO CLOSE...
HE'S NEARING THE END!
I MUST TOUCH HIM!
THUD-DUB THUD-DUB
"MORE POWER!"
"I NEED MORE POWER!!"
THUD-DUB THUD-DUB
"I'M MAKING CONTACT!
"MORE POWER!""
THUD-DUB THUD-DUB
AAAAARRRRRRRGGGGGGGHH
THUD-DUB THUD-DUB

AND BEFORE MY MIND'S EYE THE IMPOSSIBLE OCCURS.

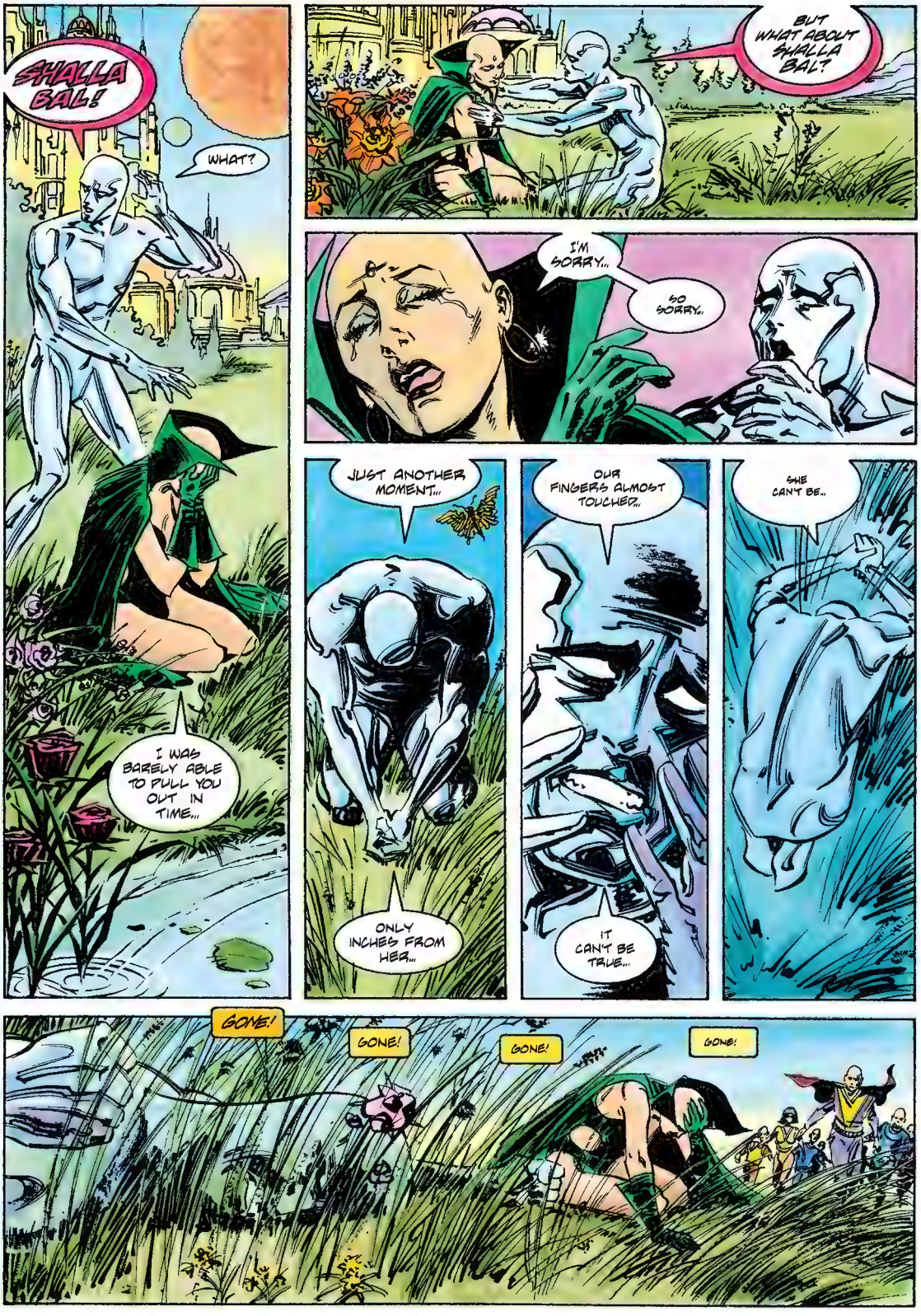

ONE MOMENT, AN EMPTY SPACE IN NEED OF FILLING.
THE NEXT, A MIRACLE!
YOU DID IT!!
WE'RE BACK ON ZENN-LA!


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES..
SORRY, SURFER...
THERE'S NO TIME TO BE GENTLE ABOUT THIS!
THUD THUD
SHE WASN'T KIDDING..
MOONDRAGON! I'M IN!
BY THE STARS!

MOONDRAGON, HOW DO I RETRIEVE SHALLA BAL?
JUST REACH IN AND GRAB HER!
HURRY!

NO!!

SHALLA BAL...


SHALLA BAL!
WHAT?
I WAS BARELY ABLE TO PULL YOU OUT IN TIME...
BUT WHAT ABOUT SHALLA BAL?
I'M SORRY...
SO SORRY...
JUST ANOTHER MOMENT...
ONLY INCHES FROM HER...
OUR FINGERS ALMOST TOUCHED...
IT CAN'T BE TRUE...
SHE CAN'T BE...
GONE!
GONE!
GONE!
GONE!

LEAVE AND ALLOW THE MAN TO GRIEVE IN PEACE.
SHALLA BAL?
LOST IN THE STRUGGLE.
THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT!
YES, HE'S RESPONSIBLE!
HE KILLED THE GREAT ONE!
BECAUSE OF HIM WE LOST PARADISE!
AND HE COST US OUR EMPRESS, TOO!
STONE HIM!
HANG HIM!
DESTROY HIM LIKE HE DID OUR DREAMS!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

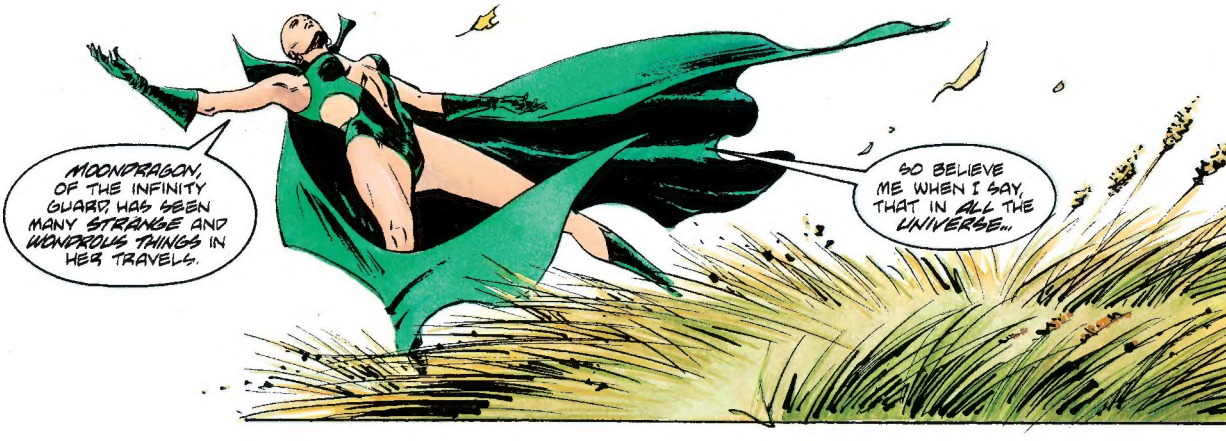
YOU FOOLS!

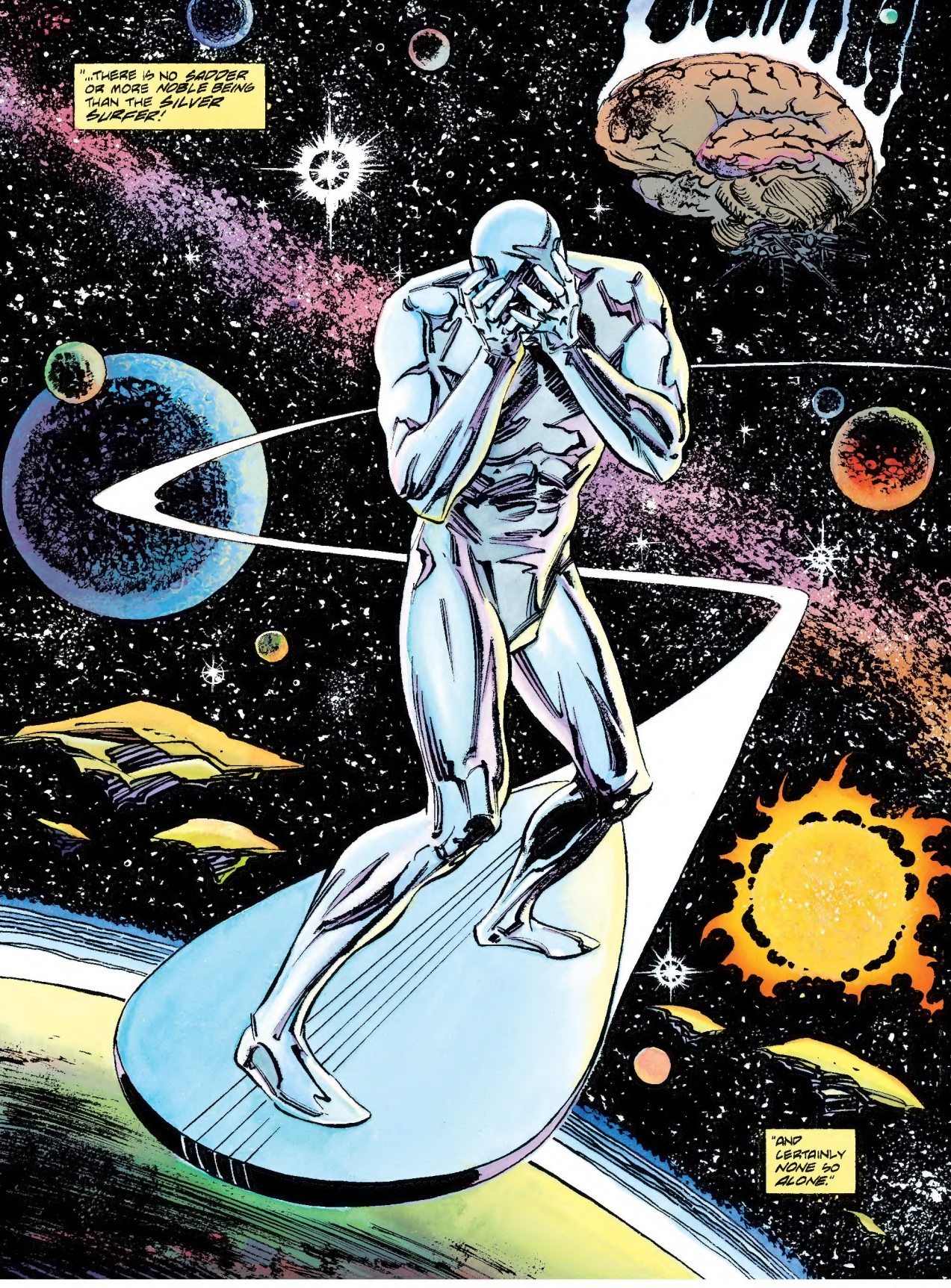
HOW MANY TIMES HAS NORRIN RADD SACRIFICED FOR YOU?
HOW MANY TIMES DID HE RISK HIS LIFE FOR YOU?

THE GREAT ONE'S BASE FEAR IS THE CAUSE OF YOUR RUINATION, NOT THE SURFER'S GALLANTRY!
HE JUST SAVED YOU WORTHLESS SLUGS FROM TOTAL EXTINCTION!

SO YOU REPAY HIM WITH UNJUST ANGER! YOU ARE DESPICABLE!
I'D DESTROY YOU ALL, BUT THAT WOULD ONLY GAIN ME THE SURFER'S WRATH!

GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!!
BUT REMEMBER YOU THIS!


MOONDRAGON, OF THE INFINITY GUARD, HAS SEEN MANY STRANGE AND WONDROUS THINGS IN HER TRAVELS.
SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY, THAT IN ALL THE UNIVERSE...


"...THERE IS NO SADDER OR MORE NOBLE BEING THAN THE SILVER SURFER!
"AND CERTAINLY NONE SO ALONE."

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA